

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

* * * * *

Before: PAUL GOTTHOLD, EPA
KHAH DAO, EPA
BETTY ANN QUINN, EPA

Location: Muhlenberg Middle School
801 Bellevue Avenue
Laureldale, PA 19605

Hearing: Thursday,
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ORIGINAL

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. GOTTHOLD:

We'll get started now. I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Paul Gotthold. I work for the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Philadelphia. With me tonight is Khai Dao and Betty Ann Quinn. They both have been working on this Exide project.

We're finally here. This is taking longer than we expected. I think that's probably a little concerning. But we appreciate your patience, and we appreciate your attendance tonight.

We've devised a structure tonight --- can everybody hear me? Okay. The way we'd like to begin is by giving you a short background, very short. I will run through the steps that we have --- needs to be improved in the work plan that's going to complete resident cleanups. There's a little slide presentation, maybe eight or ten slides. And then after that, the stage is yours. You can ask us any questions that you'd like. We have a microphone over here. And as soon as time is given for this presentation, we'll begin to take questions.

A couple other points I would like to

1 bring to up. We have a young man whose name is Rick
2 Miller who is now in the hallway. If you don't have
3 or forget or lost steps that you may have received
4 from us in the past, Rick has those on a computer in
5 the hallway. So he can tell you the number and will
6 follow up with a written letter with the results on
7 it. Our privacy concern and our responsibility with
8 the Privacy Act is we would ask that you have ID with
9 your address on it. So that's number one.

10 Number two is having read some, there are
11 some questions, some frequently asked questions.
12 There's also a fact sheet that's got some other
13 information in it. It includes our contact
14 information. The risk assessment documents you will
15 find on the website. You can download that. If you
16 don't have access to a computer and you want these
17 documents, feel free to contact us and we'll have
18 those sent out to you.

19 In preparation for tonight's meeting, we
20 had an address list that we sent a written
21 correspondence to everyone that was on that list. If
22 you did not get an invitation to tonight's meeting and
23 would like to be included on our mailing list, what we
24 ask you to do is during the meeting we'll put you on
25 the mailing list as well. Okay? Okay. With that I'd

1 like to introduce tonight Khai Dao.

2 MR. DAO:

3 Good evening. Thank you for coming out
4 tonight. As Paul mentioned, my name's Khai Dao. I'm
5 an EPA project manager for the Exide investigation.

6 Tonight I'll present to you the results
7 of the risk assessment and how the proposal will be
8 applied to the residential properties and how will it
9 affect your property.

10 The presentation is going to be very
11 short, so I ask that your questions --- please hold
12 your questions until the end of the presentation when
13 we will conduct a question and answer session.

14 I'll begin with a brief background on the
15 presentation. As most of you know, Exide operates
16 lead smelters. It manufacturers and recycles lead
17 batteries. In 1987, Exide's first facility was
18 General Battery Corporation. Prior to Exide's
19 purchase of the facility and also prior to the
20 enactment of the Clean Air Act in 1970, the facility
21 operated the lead smelter without any air pollution
22 controls. As a result, lead particles were let into
23 surrounding community. Although Exide was not the
24 owner at the time, but since they purchased the
25 property, they are responsible and liable for the past

1 conditions.

2 So in 2000, EPA issued an Administrative
3 Consent Order to Exide to investigate the impact of
4 lead conditions and to clean up any properties that
5 have been grossly affected by the lead emissions. The
6 investigation was most concerned with conserving the
7 extent of contamination on individual properties to
8 determine whether they had sought out a safe
9 concentration of that property, conduct a certain
10 cleanup level, conduct a risk assessment to determine
11 the potential soil concentration of an area. Apply to
12 the potential properties to determine which properties
13 have been adversely affected by the lead issues and
14 then the clean up of this property.

15 In 2001 and 2002, Exide conducted a
16 comprehensive soil sampling in the community. The
17 assessment encompasses approximately so far 650
18 properties, which equates to approximately 12,500 soil
19 samples. From these soil samples, we were able to
20 determine the soil lead concentration for each
21 property. Shortly after examining, the results were
22 sent to the property owners.

23 The next step of the investigation is to
24 determine site specific cleanup levels for the
25 community which encompasses the site specific risk

1 assessment. The purpose of the risk assessment is to
2 evaluate the lead exposure area to the community to
3 determine a protective soil level for the area.
4 Children six years old and younger are considered the
5 most vulnerable in the community. So in essence they
6 wanted to protect children, we pretty much should be
7 protecting all the residents in a community.

8 As part of the risk assessment, we took
9 initial environmental samplings from the homes such as
10 lead paint, lead dust, tap water. We also conducted
11 another study of the community. So we'll upgrade the
12 data through EPA approval to determine what would be a
13 protected soil lead concentration for this community
14 as a model 650 as a protected soil lead concentration
15 for the community.

16 So what does this 650 mean to the
17 residents? What it means is that if you're a property
18 owner that has a soil lead concentration of 650 or
19 less, the level of lead on your property does not pose
20 a specific health risk and therefore your property
21 would not require any clean up. On the other hand, if
22 the average soil lead concentration of your property
23 is greater than 650, then clean up is required on your
24 property.

25 Just to give you a better sense and

1 understanding of the investigation, I've provided a
2 map of the study area. As you can see from this map
3 Exide pretty descended on the study area. The study
4 area encompasses approximately a mile radius around
5 the facility itself. And in this study area, you can
6 see, there are five areas which are highlighted in
7 red. Areas that are another part of the cleanup which
8 are in green and areas that were already cleaned up by
9 Exide in 2004 and 2002.

10 So to just recap what 650 means, if
11 you're a resident with lead soil concentration of 650
12 or less, your property does not require cleanup. The
13 soil on that property does not pose a health risk.
14 Approximately 400 properties within the study area
15 fall into that category. These properties have
16 received --- or property owners have received a
17 determination letter from EPA that states the lead on
18 your property does not pose a health risk, and
19 therefore, your property will not require clean up.
20 The next line is an example of what you'll get, a
21 letter from the EPA letterhead signed by a superior at
22 EPA.

23 Now for those properties that contain
24 soil lead concentration greater than 650. These
25 properties will require soil clean up. Based on the

1 study, we estimated that approximately up to 150
2 properties that require soil remediation. We have
3 prioritized clean up based on children that lived ---
4 living on these properties. So if there are children
5 residing on properties that six years old and younger,
6 those properties will be remediated first. Right now
7 the schedule to begin remediation would be spring of
8 2008 and it could take up to three years to complete
9 the remediation of up to 150 properties.

10 So if you're one of the residents here
11 that require clean up, you will receive a letter from
12 Exide with a request form requesting for your
13 permission to clean your property. If you want your
14 property clean or remediated, you have to sign and
15 return the letter to Exide.

16 Prior to cleanup, Exide contractors will
17 set up an appointment with the property owners to lay
18 out the specifics of the plan to make sure that you
19 understand what's required. In essence, the cleanup
20 is pretty much just removing, excavating the
21 contaminated soil and backfilling that area with new
22 soil and restoring the property to the owner's
23 satisfaction.

24 In addition to the residential cleanup,
25 there are other activities that we still need to

1 complete and these activities are listed here. We
2 still need to sample additional properties confirmed
3 in the study area. There are certain properties in
4 the first round of 2001 and 2002 that we were unable
5 to access. Right away we contacted the property
6 owner, but we're going to attempt again to have the
7 property sampled. We are in the midst of discussing
8 with Exide a proposed cleanup plan. And we still need
9 to evaluate some of the commercial properties on ---
10 within the study area. It's a different standard, and
11 we're going to look into that, whether commercial
12 properties require cleanup or not.

13 And finally, there are residential
14 properties that are undeveloped, and that's something
15 that we were planning to contact the property owners
16 to come forward to the property to discuss the time
17 frame and what their needs are for addressing those
18 issues of their property.

19 That pretty much ends my presentation.
20 Before I leave, I just wanted to provide to you my
21 contact information. You could either write me a
22 letter, contact me through the 1-800 number or e-mail
23 address. I'll try to respond to you within 24 hours.
24 But if you have any concerns or question feel free to
25 contact me. I'll provide you a communication list and

1 I hope that you feel comfortable having your questions
2 directed to me. In addition to my contact
3 information, I also provided the EPA corrective action
4 site. And if you want more information, please look
5 at that website. If you want more information feel
6 free to check out that website.

7 At this time, I think I will turn it over
8 to Paul who will conduct the question and answer.
9 Thank you for your time.

10 MR. GOTTHOLD:

11 Okay. Folks, I'm sure there's at least
12 one question. We have a microphone here. If you want
13 to use that, if you just want to stand up.

14 RESIDENT:

15 Is he telling us that this --- this
16 buildup of lead, has it been increased since they
17 sampled it?

18 MR. GOTTHOLD:

19 So the question is has the lead increased
20 since we did sample it?

21 RESIDENT:

22 I mean, are they still --- are they still
23 spewing out lead?

24 MR. GOTTHOLD:

25 No, they're not. That's because there

1 are monitors that operate 24/7 around the plant. And
2 remember this lead came from --- back before there was
3 any lead poison control, this came from the '50s and
4 '60s, this lead. It's not coming out of the plant
5 now. We know that because the air monitors also show
6 that. The air pollution controls are used.

7 RESIDENT:

8 They put a lead monitor by my lawn so
9 many years back that I made calls to come and get it.

10 MR. GOTTHOLD:

11 How long is that, sir?

12 RESIDENT:

13 Oh, this has been about maybe eight, nine
14 years ago, maybe a little longer.

15 MR. GOTTHOLD:

16 I mean, there may have been air monitors
17 used to tests various parts ---.

18 RESIDENT:

19 They were looking for lead.

20 MR. GOTTHOLD:

21 Well, the soil lead has not increased.

22 RESIDENT:

23 I have five grandchildren coming to my
24 house all the time. That doesn't make me eligible
25 because I don't have six children.

1 MR. GOTTHOLD:

2 The eligibility is 650 parts per million
3 in the soil. If you're lower than that, then you're
4 fine.

5 RESIDENT:

6 Well, we're way up to 500 and something.

7 MR. GOTTHOLD:

8 You should be fine. If you don't know
9 what your number is, you can get Rick and he'll tell
10 you what your number is. But remember, if you're
11 above 650, that should be on the schedule ---.

12 RESIDENT:

13 What do you got to do to get it tested
14 again?

15 MR. GOTTHOLD:

16 If you want your soil to be tested, you
17 just get it one time. Or if you want to --- if you
18 want to give Rick your name up there, we'll take care
19 of it okay, sir. Yes, sir?

20 RESIDENT:

21 Can I use the mike?

22 MR. GOTTHOLD:

23 Certainly.

24 MR. STUMSTUCKER:

25 My name is George Stumbstucker

1 (phonetic). I live in Hyde Park, and I don't know if
2 there's anybody else here from Hyde Park or not.
3 Where I live at is approximately give or take three to
4 four blocks away from Exide to the west. And I moved
5 there about a year and a half ago. And in doing so, I
6 was going away occasionally. And basically on a
7 Friday or Saturday, we seen white trucks sitting there
8 with the manhole covers off with hoses down to the
9 ground. Now, I thought there was --- I thought it was
10 the township checking on something or doing something
11 that's done every once in a while.

12 But over a few months every Friday or
13 Thursday, in some cases, these trucks would be there
14 and they would be directing traffic. Then all of the
15 sudden, I take the dog out to go for a walk every
16 morning at about 6:30, 7:00. And what do I see and
17 what do I smell, but this odor. Now, it wasn't the
18 odor that we get occasionally around here. It was an
19 odor. And all of a sudden my nostrils started to burn
20 and my eyes started to burn, and I'm wondering what
21 was going on here.

22 A couple days later I took a walk down
23 about a block away from my place, the section of the
24 Kutztown Road. And the manhole covers were off. They
25 come out and I took notice all the way down. There's

1 a little creek down there, an overpass. And these
2 manhole covers were oozing with yellowish and green
3 water. Now, I'm trying to figure out what's going on
4 here.

5 So I thought I'd ask questions to my
6 neighbors, and some businessmen. And I'm told about
7 the situation at Exide. That it's lasted for years
8 and years and years. And that's what it was doing is
9 cleaning the outdoor lines. My concern was why is it
10 going on the ground, and why is it going in the creek?

11 And then I did a little bit of my own investigation,
12 and I find out that Burlington Safety and the owner is
13 coming from Exide. So who do I report this to?

14 Well, what I do is I finally get a hold
15 of my representatives, and I finally get one
16 representative and I get a telephone number to
17 Harrisburg. I couldn't get the run around in
18 Harrisburg. But then we have a local DEP here which I
19 didn't know we had. So I called there. And I got,
20 oh, I will take care of it. I will take care of that.
21 I'll have to give you to somebody else. I'll take
22 care it. I'll have to give you to somebody else.

23 So I finally get a girl by the name of
24 Julia who helped me out pretty much and let me know
25 what the situation is. She takes care of the odor

1 department and today you'll find out that may have
2 been some more that have seen that problem too. So
3 she come to my place a couple times. I also find out
4 via her and the department that in the last year or so
5 Exide has been fined at least five or six or seven
6 times, each time \$3,500 and they continue doing it.
7 Well, I told people from DEP, Julia, that it did seem
8 to me they clean up on a Thursday and Friday and then
9 they smell on a Saturday and Sunday. Now, I'm told
10 they're going bankrupt. They're going bankrupt and
11 they're paying their people time and a half and double
12 time to do their stuff for them. Why didn't anything
13 get done? Well, it's on the weekend and there's nobody
14 around. And is this information received, no, no. We
15 can smell it ourself.

16 So Julia came and looked a couple of
17 times. I called her out there and she came out. She
18 said they owe a \$3,500 fine. And I do some more
19 checking to find out that this situation has been
20 taking place for years and years and years. That the
21 presentation that was being presented here tonight was
22 done several years ago. And now you're saying that it
23 will take Exide three years to do the cleanup of the
24 dirt. If they don't start the first year, you can't
25 get it done. If they don't start the second year, you

1 can't get it done. If they don't start until the
2 beginning of the third year, then the excuse is going
3 to be we need a little bit more time.

4 Now in the meantime, I understand that
5 they never meant to operate. They never meant to
6 continually, continually pollute the area until it
7 came to a point that God only knows. There's arsenic
8 out there now. No one can give us direct answers on
9 how fast this is taking place. Now, to me tonight
10 it's almost like we're wasting time unless you can say
11 that Exide will be shut down, stop operation until
12 they rectify all this situation that endangers
13 people's lives. And this has not been discussed.

14 Besides the lives which is very
15 important, anybody else if you own your property, what
16 will happen to your property valuation. Do I want to
17 buy a property in the area where this is taking place?
18 You're looking at you're going to sell it for a decent
19 price. But putting that aside, we're talking about
20 the health and welfare.

21 Now, the people I know and the people I
22 talk to were at the meetings. This place would be
23 full tonight. And said, oh, what good is it going to
24 do now. You go there. They're going to throw the
25 same stuff back at you. They're not going to stop

1 anything. I've been informed that Exide is going to
2 have to add a special --- they are going to get a
3 permit to continue your operation. Now, that means
4 that I'm going to have use a cloth over my face again
5 to go outside. One of my questions is, besides
6 everything else is, what do I do in a case like that?
7 I've been trying to do everything. They're going to
8 get fined \$3,500, and this is a continuous thing. And
9 you don't know what they'll put in the air.

10 Recognizing the facts that there is lead
11 in a high content in some properties that should be
12 taken care of. But it hasn't been taken care of. Oh,
13 they promise this time, and they promised before. And
14 they're going to do it again. In the meantime, you're
15 going to give them the permit to continue operating to
16 pollute the air with God knows what and continually
17 --- and nobody can answer the question the gentleman
18 up here had a couple of minutes ago, are they
19 continuing polluting as they clean up the ground. We
20 don't know that.

21 The bottom line is this, why? That's my
22 question. Why? I'll tell you right now they don't
23 have a good track record. There's no reason why you
24 have to give them a break. There's no reason on this
25 earth why you have to make it easy for them. They

1 have a track record over the years with the same bull.

2 Why is it taking place again? Thank you.

3 MR. GOTTHOLD:

4 I think I have some answers for this,
5 from the previous statement, which I do give them a
6 lot ---. Let me make clear to everybody, I think it's
7 an important distinction to understand the terms that
8 both the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
9 Protection and the United States Environmental
10 Protection Agency are talking with the Exide facility.

11 We have a position of labor, if you will.
12 Years ago they came to us and asked us to provide
13 assistance with the stuff that's happening outside the
14 plant such as soil. The soil issue that is happening
15 on off site of the inside property. And therefore, it
16 was going to be on the plant operations itself. The
17 permits --- the permits that you are referring to are
18 permits that are issued by the state. We had offered
19 our assistance to the state in resolving some of the
20 technical issues that are causing the odor problem
21 that are part of the permit renewal processing. I
22 know the state has called me on a few occasions, but
23 they are very concerned about the issues. They
24 understand how terrible that is when you walk into
25 that odor from a place in the neighborhood. I know

1 that Julia had worked hard with the folks in the area
2 to deal with that.

3 I am aware that --- I've been informed
4 about a \$3,500 fine. We are constrained somewhat to
5 talk about other possibilities that exist, but I can
6 tell you that it wasn't EPA that incorporated --- they
7 didn't want to talk to the plant people. The
8 Harrisburg DEP folks all took options that were
9 basically having to come in and discuss the issues
10 that we put up. So I do expect --- and I know a lot
11 of people that worked there, and I trust them. I
12 think they're good employees. They're going to work
13 on your problems right now and I expect them to be
14 successful.

15 I think there was another --- oh, what
16 happened if they don't start or we make excuses for
17 them or whatever? I'm certain we don't gain any
18 friends any places where we feel that we need to make
19 excuses for people that have committed their
20 responsibilities for these things. We're going to
21 hold Exide to what they've agreed to do. And if they
22 don't do that, then there's all kinds of bad things
23 that are going to happen to them.

24 And one of the things that, at least for
25 me, I feel is Fin a much better position now is the

1 enactment of the work plan. Because once we get the
2 schedule approved and that, then that's not up to them
3 when they start. It's up to us when they start. It's
4 up to us when they get done. So that's I guess a
5 partial response. It's my response to the issues that
6 we know of.

7 We certainly continue to work with DEP on
8 some of the plan issues and some --- I think, Khai, it
9 might be a good idea if you could work with DEP and
10 get some of that stuff up on the website so you guys
11 can look at it and we'll try to do that. I have faith
12 that they'll get that job done.

13 RESIDENT:

14 Good evening. I'm County Commissioner
15 Mark Scott. I spoke with you gentlemen just the other
16 --- yesterday actually. For the benefit of the public
17 who didn't get all the details of the comments that I
18 made at that time, I'd like to be able to review some
19 of my thoughts about the cleanup process and the
20 handouts that we presented.

21 I'd like to begin with a handout that
22 included a photostat copy of the cleanup area. I
23 wanted to hand it out to this group. But some people
24 have asked me not to include it. They have suggested
25 although they know that map is not precise, it would

1 be helpful if that map was generated to the public at
2 large so they could try to pinpoint their property.
3 There are a number of people who just moved into the
4 neighborhood and they're concerned. They were unaware
5 until very recently that there is an issue involving
6 what may affect your property and your property value.

7 The first comment has to do with the
8 optional nature of the cleanup process, the protocol
9 that you've outlined which would essentially allow the
10 property owners to refuse cleanup. And I suggested
11 and I'd like to say again that I think that's a bad
12 idea. Although there may be some --- a few irrational
13 people who wouldn't want to, that signifies an unsafe
14 property. Those persons should not be able to have a
15 remaining impact on their neighbors. There's always
16 going to be subsequent owners of these properties.
17 And if they're not cleaned up, the subsequent owner
18 will surely be asking for some sort of assistance. It
19 would be far more efficient to do it all at once.

20 Secondly, the many unclean properties
21 would signify the neighborhood as a whole. And
22 someone's already spoken about the issue of property
23 values. This neighborhood needs to be cleaned up
24 entirely so that the stigma of its unhealthfulness
25 can be removed.

1 One factor, of course, if the property
2 isn't cleaned up, we all know from having been
3 children that we don't just play when we're children
4 in our own yards. We play in our neighbor's yard. In
5 fact, my neighbor's yard may be better than my yard.
6 I do recall that as a kid. My neighbor's yard was a
7 hell of a lot more fun than my yard. So I played over
8 there more than I did in my own. If that yard hasn't
9 been cleaned up, my child is being exposed to my
10 neighbor's contamination, and that's just
11 unacceptable.

12 And important is the issue of lateral
13 migration. We all know that it may set contaminants
14 laterally and perhaps one's property cleaned up making
15 the process somewhat futile if not everything is
16 cleaned up.

17 Second issue, my understanding is that
18 there's a pending Center for Disease Control
19 Department of Health downward revision in the level of
20 safe, unsafe levels for a number of heavy metals
21 including lead. I understand that the proposal, and
22 it's not formal, is that the safe level for children
23 for lead exposure is at --- we go from 10 to 0. And
24 for adults from 30 or 40 down to 10, certainly that's
25 a large decrease. If this happens does it not in turn

1 affect the following level of exposure limits in soil
2 because I believe that the equation for the Biokinetic
3 uptake of lead has as one of its variables the level
4 of lead in the soil, in the atmosphere to which an
5 individual is exposed. And that can result in a ---
6 apparently safe level of five or three, and all of the
7 sudden the level changes to zero. Does not that level
8 at 650 that we currently think is a reasonable level
9 have to be reduced? And if that happens, does not the
10 cleanup become obsolete almost immediately after it's
11 completed making the issue of yet another cleanup. So
12 perhaps we should be forward looking as to impending
13 standards.

14 I recall very well just before her
15 resignation Christine Todd Whitman had led the EPA to
16 revise a safe level of arsenic in drinking water from
17 50 parts per billion go down to 10. When that
18 happened, a number of water plants throughout the
19 country were confronted with a major need of capital
20 improvements to meet that EPA standard. A history of
21 so many contaminants to me seems generally to lead one
22 to conclude that such levels of exposure usually are
23 reduced rather than elevated by the scientific
24 community over time.

25 Third, if accessible levels of exposure

1 are reduced in tandem with the blood level reductions
2 that are acceptable, does that not expand the area
3 that is eligible for cleanup? Currently, we say,
4 well, we drew a boundary beyond which we don't think
5 there are any properties that needed cleanup because
6 their soil concentrations are below 650. But if the
7 accepted level of blood and the corresponding exposure
8 level of soil declined, then you could be looking at a
9 larger area. Further testing is something I'd
10 personally want to support.

11 The last of my issues that I want to
12 raise, which is that there are other contaminants of
13 concern related to the Exide plant operation over many
14 decades. And those contaminants of concern are
15 pointed out by at least three parties, one, the
16 attorney and consultants for St. Michael's Seminary,
17 some work for Lucent Technology and still others work
18 for the Sampler City (phonetic) consultants and
19 lawyers.

20 There was limited testing by --- in 1994
21 by a firm subcontracted by Mastio Services (phonetic),
22 which was a firm that did the testing at that time for
23 Exide. And they narrowed it down to a 300 yard radius
24 of the Exide plant's boundaries of high levels ---
25 unacceptably high levels of arsenic and cadmium were

1 found in the soil in a number --- approximately two
2 dozen locations. Thirty-eight (38) percent of those
3 samples came up hot for arsenic and some came up hot
4 for cadmium. Acceptable level for arsenic in soil is
5 currently at 12 parts per million. There were samples
6 in the 58 parts per million. That'd be almost five
7 times the being safe level in soil. Similarly, the
8 highest level for cadmium was 5.8. I think the
9 acceptable level is something like one for cadmium.

10 There seems to be a strong association of
11 claiming the presence of the cadmium and the arsenic
12 and the lead, although it's not necessarily
13 proportional. But certainly the signs, as I read it,
14 and our county consultants have told us, that there's
15 a higher carcinogenic increase associated with arsenic
16 and cadmium than there is with lead. Lead is
17 associated with delay in the development of children,
18 and it's responsible for about a four point deficiency
19 in IQ for those exposed to high lead levels versus
20 those who are not. But there is strong correlation
21 between skin cancer, arsenic and cadmium and kidney
22 cancer and prostate cancer. Those cancers based upon
23 the county's examination of Department of Health
24 statistics in Muhlenberg and Laureldale generally are
25 high. And there seems to be a potential --- potential

1 relationship here, which leads me to my last
2 observation.

3 If there is --- I support additional
4 testing for cadmium and arsenic before the cleanup.
5 The reason is if you're going to look at what is
6 responsible perhaps for the elevated levels of
7 cancers, certain types of cancers, we need to know
8 historically what the data is related to these
9 neighborhoods. If we clean them up without testing,
10 we won't know what that population has been exposed to
11 in terms of parts per million in soil. We can
12 probably try to find out what is here, but we will
13 have lost record --- a historical record of exposure
14 via soil exposure in these neighborhoods if we remove
15 all the soil.

16 Another reason for us to do additional
17 testing is that there's not a direct proportional
18 relationship between the lead levels and the cadmium
19 and arsenic. So that you might have a property ---
20 and I'm not a scientist, but based upon variability,
21 it's a general relationship. But it's not strictly
22 proportional in a defined ratio or even a close ratio.
23 So it's possible, mind you, that you could have a
24 property with 649 parts per million of lead, but it
25 might have 20 parts per million of arsenic and still

1 be a dangerous exposure avenue for children and
2 adults.

3 So those are the issues that at this
4 point that I raised the other night. I would
5 encourage the people in the audience to consider my
6 thoughts and perhaps join with me in approaching EPA
7 to have further testing done and to perhaps
8 re-examine the 650 parts per million based upon
9 impending downward revisions of the perceived
10 scientific safe level of exposure in soil to lead.
11 And thank you very much for listening.

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 I would like to meet --- Commissioner
14 Scott gave us some of his information last night that
15 we are checking on. Some of it --- I think we got
16 some back today from your county consultant, so we are
17 going to check that. I would like to say that in a
18 downward revision of any CDC level that's deemed a
19 high level and all of that. In the event that that
20 happens, and I don't know that you have any sense that
21 that's an immediate effort, obviously that's going to
22 be a problem for multiple people across the country.
23 So there will certainly be a response to that. So we
24 wouldn't walk away if those numbers come down that
25 dramatically. We wouldn't walk away. We think of

1 this level as being --- actually use it in this model
2 and clean up those sites, that has been protected in
3 every case so far that we know about. We know --- and
4 along with elevated lead levels in the case of the
5 ones that are out there right now, are the people that
6 participated in the project site. We have that
7 documentation.

8 So remember it's not just the lead
9 levels. It's also the amount of exposure that you
10 have to it. It's a two part process. So certainly,
11 if we extended our chain or altered it in any way,
12 then subsequently we have to act responsibly with
13 regard to that.

14 I think some of these other things I want
15 to take a look at the data that you gave us. And you
16 put together some good responses of everybody on that.
17 But to just say in general, it is not just this site
18 but dozens of sites that need cleaned up. We have a
19 situation there. We have something that is so much
20 more an issue. In this case, the lead being so much
21 more of a percent. And the other metals of concern,
22 we know that the other metals are there, but they're
23 so much smaller in proportion. But we are confident
24 from this experience that if we get the lead we got
25 the other stuff as well.

1 I think it's an interesting point about
2 how --- we do have the data and we'll get you guys a
3 response on that. Yes, sir?

4 RESIDENT:

5 I have a couple questions I'd like to
6 ask.

7 MR. GOTTHOLD:

8 Sure. Betty, is there anything you want
9 to say?

10 MS. QUINN:

11 I would like to see the data, but arsenic
12 occurs commonly in soil. You're exposed to arsenic
13 all the time anyway. And the levels of arsenic that
14 would be of possible concern in soil would have to be
15 --- would have to be reasonably large. It has not ---
16 we have some sketchy data that I just looked at before
17 we even started tonight. The levels of arsenics in
18 these results would not qualify as being of
19 significant concern.

20 And what you have to remember about
21 Pennsylvania's standard of 12 parts per million is
22 that there are numerous safety factors built into
23 that. So that if you have a level that is 13, that
24 doesn't mean you're going to experience an adverse
25 effect. It means that you need to investigate a

1 little further to make sure that the levels aren't
2 approaching something that might be of concern. And
3 the same goes for cadmium.

4 MR. SOLENKSY:

5 My name's John Solensky, and I just moved
6 into the area a few years ago. So this is all pretty
7 new to me. And my main concern not necessarily has to
8 do with the soil but has to do with the air.

9 The reason I say that is because I have
10 very young children. As a matter of fact, we just had
11 our sixth baby and with the same wife. And our little
12 girl is six weeks old. So obviously a six-week-old, a
13 two-year-old, a four-year-old, a seven-year old, a
14 13-year-old and a 17-year-old and hopefully more on
15 the way, I'm concerned about living on a mountain that
16 overlooks this place. And I guess one of my questions
17 is why are they still running if this is such a
18 concern?

19 MR. GOTTHOLD:

20 Can everybody hear me? Okay. I want to
21 --- I want to state the differences in my mind.
22 There's multiple issues going on. But let's make a
23 clear distinction in my mind ---. The concern about
24 lead is all about lead that was deposited a long time
25 ago. We know for a fact that it's not coming out of

1 the plant now. We measure it. They have to measure.

2 The state backs up those measurements. So we know
3 that the lead that's out there that we need to clean
4 up comes from deposits that were made back when the
5 plant first began operation, back in the ---.

6 MR. SOLENSKY:

7 Would that be considered a hot spot then?
8 Is that what you would consider a hot spot because it
9 was deposited years ago, this ---?

10 MR. GOTTHOLD:

11 The thing about lead is nothing happens
12 to it. It doesn't rust away. It doesn't fade away.
13 It doesn't evaporate. It's going to be there forever
14 unless you pick it up and move it out, and that's what
15 we're proposing to do. So the lead thing, that's
16 historical. You don't need to worry about lead
17 emissions there.

18 Now, the odors --- the odors are a
19 different problem. That's their operation there, and
20 that's --- as I said, I know that the DEP is --- I
21 don't think there are any --- especially as you are,
22 they are questioning that issue, and I know that
23 they're working towards something.

24 MR. SOLENSKY:

25 I can't even stand here and say that I'm

1 frustrated because obviously I'm not as old as this
2 gentleman and I haven't lived in the area that long.
3 Okay. I came --- I mean, I'm an outsider. I'm not
4 even Pennsylvania Dutch. But I'm from the Leesport
5 area and I came into this area. And that was a big
6 concern of mine obviously on behalf of my children.
7 And I guess the only question in conjunction with why
8 are they still running --- you're telling me that
9 they're running. Okay. Are they permitted to use ---
10 do they have a permit to run the plant?

11 MR. GOTTHOLD:

12 Yes. The permits --- I think their work
13 permit is up for renewal is my understanding.

14 MR. SOLENSKY:

15 Okay. But they are permitted to be
16 smelting and sending out emissions and doing all these
17 things?

18 MR. GOTTHOLD:

19 The odors that you smell are a violation
20 of that permit.

21 MR. SOLENSKY:

22 What do I do about that?

23 MR. GOTTHOLD:

24 I think the response is that there's a
25 DEP air inspector that's responsible for that plant.

1 She's the one that you need to call so she can come in
2 here. The reason that I'm undetermined is it needs to
3 be reported by a DEP official in order for it to be a
4 violation. So that's --- that's the response. If you
5 smell something, that's the response.

6 MR. SOLENSKY:

7 I'll call someone.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

9 I believe we have the contact for DEP.

10 MR. SOLENSKY:

11 Okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

13 And they don't have --- I believe they
14 don't have a direct phone so you go to the secretary.

15 MR. SOLENSKY:

16 Okay. I guess another question I would
17 ask with everything and some of the difficulties that
18 people face for years is how political is this.

19 MR. GOTTHOLD:

20 How political is this?

21 MR. SOLENSKY:

22 Yes. Is this driven by politics? Is
23 there a lot of money going on in here? I mean, \$3,500
24 okay, that's a joke. I mean, fine them until it
25 hurts. So my question is how political is this. Is

1 the township somehow involved?

2 MR. GOTTHOLD:

3 No.

4 MR. SOLENSKY:

5 Is there a senator somehow involved?

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 No.

8 MR. SOLENSKY:

9 Why not?

10 MR. GOTTHOLD:

11 First of all, the cleanup estimate is
12 going to be several million dollars.

13 MR. SOLENSKY:

14 Did they do this voluntarily?

15 MR. GOTTHOLD:

16 No.

17 MR. SOLENSKY:

18 Okay. Well, then ---.

19 MR. GOTTHOLD:

20 I shouldn't say that. This is a ---.

21 MR. SOLENSKY:

22 You mean they got caught?

23 MR. GOTTHOLD:

24 They admitted they did it. They couldn't
25 have denied it, but they admitted that this lead came

1 from the plant. The other thing, the operating
2 premise is \$3,500 fine. Those are the laws of the
3 Commonwealth. There's not even a payment that's
4 indicated, and that's not necessarily the only fine
5 they can ever get. And also, they've already begun to
6 spend money on additional air pollution control and
7 updated technology for air pollution control. So that
8 process is underway right now.

9 MR. SOLENSKY:

10 Okay. Did they put out this paperwork
11 that I received when I came in here?

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 That's from us. That's from EPA.

14 MR. SOLENSKY:

15 And I don't mean this with any
16 disrespect, who are you? You said us, who is us? And
17 I don't mean any disrespect.

18 MR. GOTTHOLD:

19 That's okay. I'm with the United States
20 Environmental Protection Agency, Region III office in
21 Philadelphia.

22 MR. SOLENSKY:

23 You're not talking to Exide?

24 MR. GOTTHOLD:

25 Uh-uh (no).

1 MR. SOLENSKY:

2 Okay. All right. I'm just clarifying.
3 The reason I asked that is because looking at these
4 other sites and listening to everybody talking and one
5 of the questions I asked was why aren't they shut
6 down. Okay. Which I guess I should be asking you
7 because if I were killing tree frogs, they could shut
8 me down. Okay. And that's ridiculous. I have little
9 babies at my home that I'm concerned about, my future
10 generation. Why aren't they shut down?

11 Next question, did these places get shut
12 down, which you have on your list, Illinois, Hamburg,
13 or Palmerton, or Oklahoma, or Kansas?

14 MR. GOTTHOLD:

15 The Palmerton facility is still
16 operating. Hamburg was closed.

17 RESIDENT:

18 Were they similar to what we're facing?

19 MR. GOTTHOLD:

20 It's similar in a sense that it's a soil
21 issue. Whether or not the plants are operating, no
22 one is still operating.

23 MR. SOLENSKY:

24 Okay. The reason I'm asking these is
25 when I went to purchase the property, obviously I

1 could see the place. The leaves were off the trees
2 and I'm looking down, is this dangerous for me to buy?
3 I was told you could buy this up in the Blue Mountains
4 because they dump their stuff off there and there are
5 places of casings and other stuff and you could end up
6 buying property that it's on there and didn't even
7 know it was there. So that's why I'm asking these
8 questions to gather information so at least I know
9 what I'm planning here.

10 MR. GOTTHOLD:

11 Right. I'd just like to reiterate for
12 those of you who are new or moving or don't have or
13 don't recall what their soil --- average soil is on
14 their property, in fact, in the hallway we have that
15 on the database. If you have your address and some
16 form of ID, you can get that result from us.

17 MR. SOLENSKY:

18 I did that, and I think they are going to
19 get in touch with us.

20 MR. GOTTHOLD:

21 You can get that information. So don't
22 walk around and wonder what it is. If we have to do
23 this tonight, we can give you the right number. And
24 we'll get you the written document and mail it to you
25 right away. So I --- the only thing I can say that

1 there's also the free blood lead testing. And it's
2 being paid for by Exide. If that bothers you in some
3 way, I would urge you to make sure, if there's young
4 children, that you get their blood lead tested and
5 make sure everything's okay. And not just because of
6 this problem, but because lead can come from other
7 places as well. There's no way to tell if it's coming
8 from toys or paint. By far the largest problem with
9 little children with lead in their body are paint
10 surfaces and toys that come from places that use lead
11 in the paint.

12 MR. SOLENSKY:

13 Who owns Exide?

14 MR. GOTTHOLD:

15 I think they're a corporation, so I guess
16 they own themselves.

17 MR. SOLENSKY:

18 Yes. But who is the board? Who runs it?
19 Who owns it? I mean, is this a foreign company?

20 MR. GOTTHOLD:

21 No.

22 MR. SOLENSKY:

23 Okay. They are American based?

24 MR. GOTTHOLD:

25 Right.

1 MR. SOLENSKY:

2 Is there a parent company?

3 MR. GOTTHOLD:

4 Not to my knowledge, no.

5 MR. SOLENSKY:

6 Okay. So they are who they are?

7 MR. GOTTHOLD:

8 Uh-huh (yes).

9 MR. SOLENSKY:

10 Okay. I can't think of anything else. I
11 guess I would ask if maybe something would come along
12 when I have to say to my three-year-old you have to
13 get your blood tested. This is what we're up against.
14 It's not going to be a pleasant situation. And I'm
15 sure that you're on our side and not on their side.

16 MR. GOTTHOLD:

17 You guys are the one that pays us, so
18 we're on your side.

19 MR. SOLENSKY:

20 That's what I'm thinking. Thank you.

21 MR. GOTTHOLD:

22 Thank you.

23 RESIDENT:

24 I got a son who has lead poisoning. He's
25 6. I don't know who to blame, but that's for later.

1 What I'm concerned about now, I'm an electrician. I
2 work on industrial sites all the time. As the good
3 Councilman pointed out, there's more that we're
4 worried about than just lead.

5 I'm not sure, but I thought that there's
6 acids and all other kind of stuff that go into the
7 manufacture of batteries. Anyone of you or when Exide
8 or somebody release material, safety data sheets,
9 along with everything they have in there because I see
10 them at three o'clock in the morning blowing whatever
11 they're blowing out. They're working during the day,
12 but they're venting it all night long like there's no
13 tomorrow. And my son's already got lead, so I can't
14 worry about where it came from. All I got to do know
15 is worry about trying to contain it and trying to fix
16 the problem. So I'm wondering what else we're being
17 exposed to, cadmium, arsenic, you know.

18 MR. GOTTHOLD:

19 Right. Like I said, the only --- we do
20 have --- think that area is a problem.

21 RESIDENT:

22 As far as the smell goes, I know sulfuric
23 acid when I smell it. You can almost take a gander at
24 that. That's the old adage, if you smelled it, you're
25 too late. You're breathing it. You know what I mean?

1 You can call up and say, hey, I smell it. Unless
2 everyone here has a dust mask, there's nothing you can
3 do about it. Just answer this question as far as
4 politics is concerned, I mean, they're obviously
5 protecting jobs and their investment. That's got to
6 be a multimillion dollar operation. They're not going
7 to turn their light switch off on the way out of
8 there. There's too many tax dollars at stake.

9 So as far as taxpayers go, I mean, I
10 don't know what I'm being exposed to and what my kids
11 are being exposed to. I don't even know how to
12 protect them against it. I mean do I have to have my
13 kid out there in a Nomex suit running around the yard.
14 I mean what do I got to do? We contacted the EPA a
15 while ago and someone was supposed to come and test
16 the ground but nothing happened. And I don't believe
17 anybody ---.

18 MR. GOTTHOLD:

19 Well, if your yard was already tested,
20 you can ask the guy there if your yard was already
21 tested and he can ---.

22 RESIDENT:

23 It never was tested. They said they were
24 going to, but it never happened.

25 MR. GOTTHOLD:

1 Would you like to give Rick out there
2 your name and address and we'll take care of that?

3 RESIDENT:

4 Yes. The other question I have is, are
5 there any class action suits against these people? I
6 find it hard to believe all this stuff has been going
7 on for all these years and nobody's tried to sued
8 these people. Nobody's done anything.

9 MR. GOTTHOLD:

10 Suits have already been settled that were
11 filed in the past, yes.

12 RESIDENT:

13 I've been here for about five years. I'm
14 looking around going there's no way nobody has done
15 this. Who do I --- do I got to contact you guys to
16 get a hold of those material safety sheets regarding
17 what type of chemicals are involved?

18 MR. GOTTHOLD:

19 You --- is Griffin here?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

21 He just went out.

22 MR. GOTTHOLD:

23 He just went out. The gentleman that I
24 have said, you give your name and ---.

25 RESIDENT:

1 The one with the flat top?

2 MR. GOTTHOLD:

3 The guy with the lap top. And we'll take
4 care of it.

5 MR. DAO:

6 If you just provide me with your contact
7 information and you want to set up a meeting I can go
8 to your house and determine whether --- take a sample
9 and see what the problem is, that's no problem. And I
10 don't know who you talked to, you contacted EPA and
11 they were going to draw a sample. I don't remember
12 talking to anyone like that, but ---.

13 RESIDENT:

14 No. He was talking about my son and lead
15 poisoning. We didn't know where it was coming from.
16 And when we inquired about it, we were calling the
17 county trying to find out who to call for lead clean
18 up here. All of a sudden we get a call from a lawyer
19 from Exide. I said, who's this. And he says, oh, you
20 know, I'm going to have somebody from the EPA call you
21 and somebody from EPA called and said we're going to
22 send somebody out to your property and let's go over
23 all this stuff. I'm like, okay, it's all over the
24 lawn. I said, instead of my son playing in a sandbox,
25 he's playing in a lead box.

1 So nothing ever happened. We figured it
2 was a matter of time until we saw this notice in the
3 mail to come out here tonight. So I figured I'd ask
4 you again.

5 MR. GOTTHOLD:

6 Maybe later tonight if we have time, we
7 could talk, if not --- contact me and schedule a
8 meeting to discuss the issues. There's no problem
9 there.

10 RESIDENT:

11 I think I'm like a mile and ten feet in
12 that little area away from Exide. So I don't know if
13 I fall outside the line or I'm on the line.

14 MR. GOTTHOLD:

15 We could set up a meeting at your house
16 and I could discuss what we've done and determine
17 whether the property requires any action done.
18 Normally, we discuss it after the meeting. If not,
19 provide me your contact number or contact me directly
20 at --- my contact is there, and we'll set up a
21 meeting. That's no problem there.

22 RESIDENT:

23 Thank you.

24 MR. GOTTHOLD:

25 Sir?

1 RESIDENT:

2 I'm Richard Otto (phonetic). My wife and
3 I have bought property in Muhlenberg Township. I feel
4 it's quite disturbing obviously. I hear assurances
5 that the air is being monitored, and I hear ---
6 apparently, that's ineffective because people are
7 suffering. The effects of the emissions from the
8 plant have been allowed to --- not permitted, but
9 nevertheless have occurred.

10 I hear that people are outside of the
11 places that were necessary to be sampled. And yet
12 their properties apparently have been heavily
13 contaminated, yet it wasn't deemed necessary to sample
14 these areas.

15 I worked in the industry. I've seen what
16 regulatory agencies have required if it is --- if this
17 is occurring. And if there is a permitting process
18 required to operate this plant, why there are not the
19 requirements to have implementation monitoring for the
20 air quality that's being released, that the plant not
21 be allowed to operate unless expense credit at those
22 large premiums are operating at the time that they're
23 operating the plant, and that there be automatic means
24 of shutting down the plant as soon as the levels are
25 exceeded that are deemed to be safe.

1 Then you don't have to get somebody to
2 travel from Harrisburg to see whether or not they
3 might have the opportunity to smell something that's
4 being released. The instrumentation is there. It's
5 protecting the people in the neighborhood any time
6 that plant's operating. The plant isn't operating
7 unless that instrumentation is operating. It seems to
8 me the easiest solution. It's something that's been
9 imposed on numerous industries and what needs imposed
10 here.

11 MR. GOTTHOLD:

12 Young lady here and then beside you.
13 People in the back might have problems, so if
14 everybody could use the microphones.

15 RESIDENT:

16 Hi. I was just wondering are they
17 supposed to be fined for every day that they weren't
18 doing stuff that was ---?

19 MR. GOTTHOLD:

20 There were no fines to date because Exide
21 has been doing what's been asked of them. What I
22 think I heard somebody say that they just delay, delay
23 and delay. Well, the minute that starts, we're going
24 to start to enforce that order and not trust the ---
25 there are other options that we have as well.

1 There are other legal or enforcement
2 options that we have. We can expect and they have
3 told us that they will follow the order.

4 RESIDENT:

5 You won't shut them down?

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 We're not seeking to recommend that, but
8 there are other legal instruments we can use to push
9 compliance from them. Yes, sir?

10 RESIDENT:

11 I live --- my name is Cliff Jilldon
12 (phonetic). I live right across the administration
13 building here on Bellevue. And I'm sure there's other
14 people who feel like I do in the evening between the
15 spring and summer months we like to go out to our
16 patio and enjoy some evening and so forth. However,
17 during them months, go outside and the odor is so
18 strong I don't dare go in there and inhale because I
19 got lung problems. So we have to go back in the home
20 because that happens.

21 The solution I thought would be simple.
22 Instead of 6:00 to 8:00, 9:00 in the evening, which
23 before I'd like to go out to the patio or outside, why
24 couldn't they process whatever they're doing where
25 that smell's coming from 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 in the

1 morning during the night when everybody's sleeping.
2 Then we're not affected as much. Could there have
3 been anything done in that manner?

4 MR. GOTTHOLD:

5 Let me just say they shouldn't be allowed
6 to make that odor at all. So like I said, we are
7 having a transcript created for tonight's meeting and
8 everybody's comments, and suggestions, and complaints
9 will be there as well. Yes, sir?

10 RESIDENT:

11 My wife has called several times about
12 the air quality to that woman, I forget her name.
13 Obviously, the stillness of night time when nobody is
14 there, you know, nobody comes out. You say that
15 happens a lot. Why didn't somebody come let us know?

16 MR. GOTTHOLD:

17 I'll ask somebody. Yes, ma'am?

18 RESIDENT:

19 I just want to ask when this gentleman
20 said ---.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

22 We can't hear, Paul. We can't hear back
23 here.

24 RESIDENT:

25 This gentleman said let the air be bad at

1 nighttime, but I am the kind of --- I have my windows
2 open at night in the warm weather. I like the fresh
3 air. I'm a country girl. And I've lived here 38
4 years. And many a night I've had the windows open,
5 and I'd wake up in the morning, get out of the bed and
6 smell this noxious odor in my house. My house is now
7 full of the odor. And I just cannot tolerate it.
8 It's sickening. But yet I want to have my windows
9 open. And I don't know when they're going to do this.
10 Which night should I close my windows? I don't know
11 until the morning. By then it's too late. My house
12 is filled with the odor.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

14 We need somebody to come ---.

15 RESIDENT:

16 I don't want it anytime, not just --- not
17 just ---.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

19 Just monitor what they're operating or
20 they can't operate.

21 MR. GOTTHOLD:

22 I think the people in the back are having
23 trouble hearing some of the comments. Will that
24 stretch up to the audience?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

1 If they could just walk down to the
2 microphone.

3 RESIDENT:

4 I want to know why do we have to call
5 --- why does the EPA have to come out for 45 minutes.
6 It's not like we lie. The EPA is only in from 8:00 to
7 4:00 Monday through Friday. In the evening hours, you
8 can smell it, and I believe, in fact, I know that
9 they're not going to come out. And the weekends, it's
10 hard. You cannot have a picnic. Like she said, you
11 leave your windows open at night, it's awful. What
12 are they going to wait for? Everybody to get sick.
13 Everybody to get cancer. Something to happen.
14 Something has to happen now. You can't wait anymore.
15 And why do they have to come out for 45 minutes? I
16 mean, you can't control the way the wind blows. You
17 can smell it for an hour and then two hours you don't
18 smell it, and then an hour later you smell it. It's
19 there all the time, morning, noon, night, weekends.
20 Something needs to be done. I mean, I have called and
21 complained to every one after hours, but they did
22 nothing. They just write it on a piece of paper.
23 Something has to get done. And it should have been
24 done years ago. Why --- what's it going to take for
25 something to get done? And again, I have a little

1 one, and I worry about her every day. Sometimes I
2 can't let her outside.

3 RESIDENT:

4 And you say you don't smell that
5 sulfuric ---.

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 You're talking about sulfuric acid from
8 that standpoint, from the odor standpoint?

9 MS. QUINN:

10 Sulfur dioxide, I mean, it is a common
11 air contaminant, but they --- I assume they have a
12 permit for that amount --- certain amount that they
13 are allowed to release.

14 RESIDENT:

15 How is that being monitored if they're
16 not coming out into the evening hours ---?

17 MS. QUINN:

18 I understand. I understand your
19 question.

20 RESIDENT:

21 And nothing's getting done.

22 MS. QUINN:

23 This gentleman here is saying he believes
24 the permit limit should be reduced for something like
25 sulfur dioxide. This is something that I would --- we

1 will convey to DEP. But I think you as citizens are
2 entitled to make your --- to have your voice heard and
3 to say to them as well. We will do that. But you're
4 citizens who live in this community. You know, you
5 have a right to make your objections and your concerns
6 known.

7 RESIDENT:

8 You have an obligation to do something
9 about that; right?

10 MR. DAO:

11 We have an obligation, yes.

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 Yes.

14 RESIDENT:

15 My name is Bob Byce (phonetic). I live
16 in Laureldale. On August the 2nd at 5:18 in the
17 afternoon the odor was so bad I called the emergency
18 number. They called me back. Want to know what they
19 told me? Stand up and cheer when I tell you this.
20 We'll only come out if there's a body or an explosion.
21 I called Michael Page (phonetic) about that, and he
22 wrote a letter to Harrisburg that that woman up there,
23 whatever, will only come out if there's a body or an
24 explosion. Isn't that wonderful?

25 And for the rest of you people to know,

1 that smelter is located in the Borough of Laureldale.
2 I think those councilmen should get on their horse and
3 do something about it. That's the Borough of
4 Laureldale. That's taxation without representation.
5 They will do nothing. They want this. Taxation
6 without representation.

7 MR. GOTTHOLD:

8 Yes, sir?

9 RESIDENT:

10 What are the long and short-term health
11 affects or health risks of sulfur dioxide?

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 The question is what are the short-term
14 and long-term risks of sulfur dioxide?

15 MS. QUINN:

16 It really depends on the levels you're
17 exposed to. Obviously, it's an irritant. And I don't
18 feel comfortable speaking about that because I have no
19 idea what levels they're talking about. I mean, ---.

20 RESIDENT:

21 You can talk to her. She'll tell you how
22 bad that stuff is.

23 MS. QUINN:

24 If I can finish, the thing about sulfur
25 is sulfur really stinks. It smells bad. I mean, it

1 smells like rotten eggs. But there are times when you
2 can smell something and you're not being exposed to a
3 dangerous amount. It becomes more prevalent, but not
4 dangerous. So it's really difficult to talk about
5 that. I have no idea what concentrations they're
6 talking about. I don't even know what their permit
7 limits are because I don't --- that's not something
8 that I'm directly involved with. It's something that
9 I would be happy to check for you and to get that
10 information to you.

11 RESIDENT:

12 If you smell that day in and day out
13 every day constantly, if you do, don't you think it's
14 going to become dangerous no matter how little or how
15 big? You smell that every day and it's in your system
16 every day.

17 MS. QUINN:

18 Believe it or not you can smell things
19 especially in high concentrations, if it's something
20 like sulfur that ---.

21 RESIDENT:

22 Every day?

23 MS. QUINN:

24 Yes. I mean, again, it depends on the
25 level. You could smell it in low levels that might

1 not be harmful. I agree. It's very unpleasant.

2 MR. GOTTHOLD:

3 Again, we came here tonight to talk about
4 the soil lead cleanup. That's what our responsibility
5 is, and we share the responsibility for regulations of
6 this plant with the Pennsylvania DEP. So we're going
7 to talk with them. However, I think I mentioned to a
8 few of you I am aware that they're working on this
9 issue too.

10 I think most definitely it's a health
11 concern, and it is something that we can put that on
12 our website in a day or so. We will be able to get
13 everyone that health information and talk about that
14 and get it on the website. Yes, sir?

15 RESIDENT:

16 Will you let the mayor talk, sir? Our
17 mayor, will you let him talk?

18 MR. FELTENBERGER:

19 Fred Feltenberger, Laureldale Mayor. I
20 know we're here to discuss the lead problems. I've
21 lived within a five mile radius of Exide for 65 years.
22 I worked at Exide for 20 years. There was no job that
23 I haven't held at Exide. I was the janitor right up
24 to a supervisor. And what we're smelling now is the
25 acid, the sulfuric acids.

1 I have been lucky in my 65 years. I have
2 --- where I have lived, I've never smelled it outside
3 of the plant. The other Friday I was down visiting
4 one of my residents here in the borough, the gentleman
5 that just talked, Bob Bryce. And him and I were
6 talking for a half an hour, and all of a sudden I got
7 a whiff of that odor. And I want to tell you that
8 almost made me quit smoking. And if I'd had to quit
9 smoking, I'd have been damn mad.

10 But that odor was so bad that day I was
11 hell bent for election. I was going down to Exide to
12 raise some cane. However, we had a fire call and it
13 was too late to go down later on. But I made up my
14 mind I was coming here tonight knowing this is for the
15 lead, and I appreciate what you're doing. I have a
16 lot of relatives in the area that had their yards
17 redone. But this odor --- it's a shame that the
18 residents in this area have to be prisoners in their
19 own home. And that's exactly what's happening.

20 Like this gentleman said, he can't go out
21 at night and sit on his barbeque. Well, where I live
22 --- I'm sorry, sir, but where I live --- I live at
23 Marion and Bennett. I don't smell it, but I could
24 walk down one block and it knocks me on my tush. So I
25 sympathize with him.

1 But I would like to see something done
2 with their air monitors because if their air monitors
3 work as well as their fire monitors, they may as well
4 ship them back up to refinishing. Because they had a
5 fire there, I reported it, and the security guard told
6 me, you're full of bologna, we don't have a fire, it
7 doesn't show on my board. Now, I'm looking at flames
8 coming out of a building, and she's telling me there's
9 no fire. I think, boy that's dumb to --- you know. I
10 just got to the point where I'm going to watch it
11 burn. And I've been a volunteer fireman since '64,
12 but, you know, the people --- they have one hell of a
13 good gripe about the odor.

14 You know, I know you're here for the lead
15 and I know the majority of them are here for the odor.
16 And I really like to see something get done about the
17 odor. I mean, there's no reason that they can't add
18 more gas to that stack. Years back we had problems
19 with that stack, and odor would come out. We'd call
20 Bob Master (phonetic). Hey, Bob, maybe you crank it
21 up just a little. Fifteen (15) minutes the odor was
22 gone. Well, since then Bob has either been relieved
23 of his duties down there or disappeared from the face
24 of the earth.

25 But now, we call down there and oh, no,

1 we can't do that. You know, so they're looking at
2 their expenses also. But still, you know, there's got
3 to be something done with the odor. Thank you.

4 MR. GOTTHOLD:

5 Yes, ma'am?

6 RESIDENT:

7 Yes, I'm concerned. I'm looking right
8 now at an article that came out in the Reading Eagle.
9 And the article was the one that was on cancer-cluster
10 or coincidence. And it stated that Muhlenberg had an
11 incident level of approximately 134 as compared to so
12 many other areas. Now, my concerns are not --- yes,
13 the concern is the noxious odor, but my concern is
14 also the level in which --- and what is the level
15 which you're considered as dangerous. Because even if
16 it's a minimal level, that coupled with all of the
17 other environmental problems and agents that we have
18 out here that is not good for our health. Even though
19 you can consider it very low, it's still obviously
20 proving to be harmful to an awful lot of people
21 particularly since this level in terms of the
22 incidents rate of cancer in this area is very high.

23 I'm interested because my background is
24 medical. My name's Dr. Carey (phonetic), and I am
25 very, very interested in what is being done. And it's

1 not enough to tell people in this area and in other
2 areas that you'll check on it because we don't know
3 what that means. How soon will you report back? How
4 soon will it be proven or disproven that these levels
5 are dangerous? We have children living here, and I
6 can't say how many children that have already been
7 affected by leukemia. So we have to get to the point
8 that we can pinpoint exactly how long it's going to
9 take to get this pertinent information back to this
10 area because this is a very dangerous situation that
11 we're talking about here.

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 We talked to DEP today and the
14 Pennsylvania Department of Health on that very issue.
15 And we asked them that. And the people we talked to
16 say that they expect to have some kind of --- Senator
17 O'Pake, is your state senator, and they were supposed
18 to have a meeting with him tomorrow. However, that's
19 been pushed off. So I will find out and ---.

20 RESIDENT:

21 That's the problem. That's why I'm here,
22 and that's why I'm asking these questions.

23 MR. GOTTHOLD:

24 Well, I think it was pushed off because
25 they needed --- they actually have exchanged

1 information, but they have to get down there where he
2 is. So they are moving on that and we'll pass that on
3 to you.

4 RESIDENT:

5 Well, in the meantime, what is the EPA or
6 anyone else suggesting in terms of prevention?
7 Because while you're taking time to schedule and
8 reschedule or whatever, what can people do in terms of
9 prevention? We're talking time is ticking here, and
10 the longer it takes, it doesn't mean that it isn't
11 going to exist or it will disappear.

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 Well, I think we can talk about --- at
14 least for lead and one of the things we are concerned
15 about, the highest level --- you should always get
16 young children tested. If you don't want to use the
17 Exide facility then go to ---.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

19 It's at the Fairgrounds Square Mall at
20 Quest Diagnostics. You just go up there, tell them
21 that you want to be tested as part of the Exide
22 program. This is for blood lead concentration.

23 RESIDENT:

24 How often can you go?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

1 As often as you want. That's my
2 understanding. You go there. It's paid for by Exide.
3 It's a voluntary program. Fairgrounds Square Mall,
4 Quest Diagnostics. I think it was called something
5 else. But Quest Diagnostics bought them out.

6 MS. QUINN:

7 With regard to cancer, lead --- exposure
8 to lead has never been associated with cancer in
9 humans. So we are not even looking at cancer in any
10 of these folks with lead exposure. The concern we
11 have with the blood levels, although not --- no one
12 tested in the community had blood lead levels of
13 concern. I think lead might have other effects but
14 not cancer.

15 MR. GOTTHOLD:

16 I think that issue is being attended to
17 by the board, State Board of Health.

18 RESIDENT:

19 But it's still a question of I'm trying
20 to make sure that there is no official link there.
21 But like I said my concern is, is that if it's going
22 to take so long in order to come up with resolution as
23 to how this is going to be all resolved. I mean,
24 there should be some type of mechanism in place
25 because you're offering people some type of answers in

1 terms of prevention. Because like I said, in the
2 meantime this is continuing on. The incidence is
3 still going up in some areas as for whatever reason of
4 cancer.

5 MS. QUINN:

6 One of the handouts we have tonight has
7 some suggestions for reducing your children's
8 potential exposure to lead, which can form problems if
9 you have elevated lead in your yard, one source, but
10 it can also come from lead in paint. So there are
11 some measures there, you know, some things you can do,
12 wash your children's hands frequently, clean your
13 house, wipe your windowsills, keep things clean. Make
14 sure they get a healthy diet. Lead is absorbed less
15 efficiently if children are nutritionally --- if
16 they're getting sufficient foods. So things like that
17 are some recommendations.

18 If you live in an older home, you might
19 consider getting your house tested for lead paint.
20 Just knowing --- just knowing that you have a lead
21 paint source in your house.

22 MR. GOTTHOLD:

23 Also, as to prevention, there's a website
24 that provides extensive information of how to prevent
25 lead poisoning and all the necessary prevention and

1 information of what effect lead has in kids. So it's
2 all in the packet. So if you look at the website it
3 will answer a lot of your questions.

4 RESIDENT:

5 Sulfur dioxide, arsenic and cadmium,
6 which ones are fat soluble and which ones are water
7 soluble? Are there any scientists at the EPA? If
8 it's fat soluble, it's ---. If it's water soluble, it
9 goes out in your urine.

10 MS. QUINN:

11 Right.

12 RESIDENT:

13 So what is water soluble?

14 MS. QUINN:

15 Arsenic. The type of arsenic in soil is
16 inorganic. That's also water soluble, not fat
17 soluble. Organic arsenic is different. That's not
18 what we're talking about here.

19 RESIDENT:

20 Cadmium is fat soluble?

21 MS. QUINN:

22 It is. It can be to a certain extent.
23 But it really depends on what it bonds --- what it's
24 complexed with, like what actual compound, like
25 cadmium sulfide. You know, generally, cadmium is

1 water soluble. Most of these are not very water
2 soluble. Cadmium actually is a little more water
3 soluble.

4 RESIDENT:

5 Only if lead is in it.

6 MS. QUINN:

7 Not even --- I mean, lead --- the thing
8 about lead is it doesn't --- what we call a safe or
9 reservoir. It actually is stored in your bones and
10 teeth, not cadmium. But the blood lead level will
11 tell you --- you know, that's an immediate definite
12 are you --- is your child already being exposed to
13 unacceptable levels of lead.

14 RESIDENT:

15 And just one more thing. I don't have
16 any children and are --- you know, are you going to
17 worry about the children first? Are you leaving them
18 responsible to worry about children first?

19 MS. QUINN:

20 Well, the thing about lead, in particular
21 children are far more sensitive to the harmful ---.

22 RESIDENT:

23 They absorb it quicker?

24 MS. QUINN:

25 They absorb it --- they absorb it more

1 --- more quickly. And because their nervous systems
2 are developing and that's what lead affects primarily,
3 they're subject to greater effects. So --- and the
4 levels we're concerned about for children are lower
5 than we would be concerned about for adults.

6 RESIDENT:

7 Thank you.

8 MR. GOTTHOLD:

9 Yes, sir?

10 RESIDENT:

11 I don't think it's our responsibility to
12 monitor the air. I mean, if we call someone, they
13 have to come out. Are there any kind of monitors that
14 you guys can use, place them in the neighborhood,
15 place them in the cemetery, you know, Sacred Heart,
16 some place where you won't have to have a physical
17 body come out and check them?

18 MR. GOTTHOLD:

19 I think ---.

20 RESIDENT:

21 I work third shift at Kaufmann --- I used
22 to work third shift, and at two o'clock in the
23 morning, four o'clock in the morning, five o'clock in
24 the morning, it'd stink. You'd have to shut all the
25 doors. It was hot at night. We had screens up. We

1 had to shut all the doors everywhere in the plant
2 because it would stink. There has to be something
3 done where it can be monitored on a 24 hour basis.
4 And once that --- something that can be read and start
5 fining them.

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 I don't know. We will certainly look
8 into that with the air compliance order. Yes, sir?

9 RESIDENT:

10 My name's Rick Loomis (phonetic). I'm a
11 community organizer with Clean Water Action. I just
12 want to say first off the fellow asked about lawsuits,
13 there were lawsuits filed in this particular case
14 since the late '90s. And so that has been going on.
15 It's taken a long time to get where we are today.

16 And as far as odors are concerned, keep
17 in mind that the DEP regional office for this area is
18 down in Harrisburg. So when you call them, so many
19 chances are they're going to be coming up from
20 Harrisburg if they come up at all. Our experience
21 when we're dealing with air quality issues and trying
22 to get inspectors up has been that you have to be
23 absolutely relentless when there is ---. It doesn't
24 matter if your neighbor is involved, you call too.
25 And you call again an hour later and again an hour

1 later and again an hour later. You have to be
2 relentless until they have to come up just to get you
3 off their back.

4 The other item, I'd like to go back to
5 the lead remediation. Pennsylvania has a really long
6 history of bad actors and delayed cleanup, doing more
7 court orders and can negotiate a way. Sometimes in
8 backroom deals. Their responsibilities for at least
9 the time schedules that they are committed to already
10 ---. \$3,500 is chump change to this company. They
11 can reach into their pockets and pull out of their
12 wallet and hand it to you across the table.

13 What are the --- specifically, what are
14 the instruments that EPA has to force compliance. I'm
15 not talking about jolly along and giving them six
16 months because they're having some kind of a problem
17 with their vehicles or something. I'm talking about
18 forcing compliance right now and making them hurt so
19 bad that they're either going to go under or they're
20 going to do what they say that they're going to do.

21 MR. GOTTHOLD:

22 The schedules that are going to be
23 approved or that are going to be topics actually
24 discussed with the residents. All those schedules
25 become, upon EPA approval, part of the order. Failure

1 to meet those schedules is a violation of that order.
2 It's not like it's going to be the first time you
3 violate it it's \$1,000 and the next time you violate
4 it it's \$1,000 and the next time you violate it it's
5 \$1,000. It will escalate with multiple violations.
6 So that's what we have right now. And that is what we
7 have, in fact, fined Exide for these issues. They're
8 doing everything they can possibly do, some of which
9 is costing them a fair good of money.

10 The other option that we have is that ---
11 I mean, I think that --- let me just skip right to the
12 chase. They're going to conform with this order
13 satisfactory to the residents without meetings among
14 other things. Other options are out there. We're
15 looking at 50 or 60 of them, but I'll give you the one
16 that I like. We can just go do it ourselves. Go each
17 day and truck in three times as much. So, you know,
18 you got to get this thing done properly and quickly
19 and not have to go to court to do that.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

21 I wanted you to clarify about the DEP
22 region office. You're right. It's in Harrisburg.
23 But if you call them up, there is a satellite office
24 in Reading, only a few miles from here. So when you
25 call them there, it's a lot shorter for them to drive

1 here. So if you want to call, it's not that far for
2 them to drive from --- it's not from Harrisburg. It's
3 from the Reading satellite office.

4 And somewhere in the --- there's a
5 contact number right there on the handout.

6 RESIDENT:

7 It says only Wednesday afternoon.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

9 I think she's in the office from 8:00 to
10 4:00, but you have to contact her, I believe. They're
11 working on the telephone system. But it's the Reading
12 satellite office.

13 MR. GOTTHOLD:

14 Okay. Let's start back --- ma'am, your
15 right hand up in the white coat?

16 RESIDENT:

17 Well, what if you have the smell, you
18 know, on the weekend? How are you going to be able to
19 contact them if they don't come out? Is there a
20 number we could get that they'll come out whenever we
21 smell it?

22 MR. GOTTHOLD:

23 I think what the gentleman ---.

24 RESIDENT:

25 There should be a number that we can get

1 in contact no matter what hour of the day it is so
2 that we don't have to put up with this smell. Well,
3 we need a number like that or everybody has to go
4 together and call that number.

5 MR. GOTTHOLD:

6 Yes?

7 RESIDENT:

8 I have a question. I was just out there
9 and a reading was taken probably back 2001, 2002,
10 whatever.

11 MR. GOTTHOLD:

12 Could you, ma'am, speak up so I can hear
13 what you have to say? People are having trouble
14 hearing it.

15 RESIDENT:

16 Okay. I just went out and got the
17 results from my soil sample that was taken several
18 years ago. And I was informed that the level was 748
19 in a one to three inch sample. Now, I'm going to
20 state that 748 is higher than 650. Now, I have two
21 small grandchildren that I've had there every single
22 day for eight years from 1997 and nothing was done
23 with my property. Why?

24 RESIDENT:

25 When are you going to do your job as EPA?

1 MR. GOTTHOLD:

2 We're doing it now. We're doing it now.

3 RESIDENT:

4 But 748, isn't that higher than what
5 you've allowed?

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 I've got to see this.

8 RESIDENT:

9 And why wasn't it? They came out one
10 day, they ran my water for over an hour. I didn't get
11 compensated for that. They didn't pay me --- pay my
12 water bill for me when they were doing their test.
13 But my soil is 748.

14 RESIDENT:

15 They're working on that problem.

16 MR. GOTTHOLD:

17 The blood lead sample, did your
18 grandchildren participate in that?

19 RESIDENT:

20 Yes, they did.

21 MR. GOTTHOLD:

22 Nobody participated in that study that
23 had blood levels that were high, no one. So your
24 question is this took a long time. I agree with you.

25 RESIDENT:

1 I mean, my grandchildren sit out there.
2 They play in the garden. They jump in that dirt, 748.
3 I'm pissed.

4 MR. GOTTHOLD:

5 I don't blame you, but remember, if they
6 get their blood levels and their blood levels are
7 okay, then you're in good shape.

8 RESIDENT:

9 Today, but what ---.

10 RESIDENT:

11 Yeah. Exactly. They played in that for
12 eight years. They're still playing in it. I mean, my
13 grandchildren are eight and ten. I've had them at my
14 house every day. I babysat for them for eight years
15 until they both went to school full time. Every
16 single day they were at my house. We played in the
17 yard. We played football. We played baseball. We
18 played in the pool. We dug in the dirt and played in
19 the garden. I have pictures of the corn that they
20 grew and the pumpkins they grew. I remember them
21 planting those seeds themselves.

22 Now, when they were tested, maybe they
23 were okay back then. But what about the years that
24 follow, all the years that they dug in that dirt.

25 MR. GOTTHOLD:

1 So they were tested --- you tested ---?

2 RESIDENT:

3 They were tested way back when they were
4 tiny.

5 MR. GOTTHOLD:

6 Right. Okay. Can you take a moment and
7 talk about the testing, why it's more dangerous in
8 younger children as opposed to older ones.

9 MS. QUINN:

10 The susceptibility to dangerous effects
11 from lead increase as the kids gets older. So that's
12 a good thing. When they get older, they're not
13 sensitive to it. But it's is an excellent way of
14 knowing what their score is, if it's harmful. And we
15 have had people who have gotten close to the
16 subsequent cutoff, then what that says to me is they
17 weren't --- I mean, we're concerned about lead in
18 soil. The kids play in the dirt. I have children of
19 my own. They put their fingers in their mouths.
20 They're going like this and they drop a piece of candy
21 on the ground. They pick it up and put it in their
22 mouths. Those are the exposures we're concerned
23 about.

24 But if you don't see an elevation in
25 their blood lead, then you were doing a good job of

1 washing their hands, you know, cleaning --- keeping
2 the house clean, things that help reduce that. And
3 there's a certain amount of variability in the
4 population of kids as well. Some --- for reasons that
5 we don't entirely understand. Some kids might not
6 show an elevation on the blood lead. In fact, that
7 really is the definitive measure of unacceptable
8 solution.

9 RESIDENT:

10 Okay. And they were probably two and
11 four when they were tested maybe. I don't remember
12 the date that they were tested. I know my daughter
13 was upset by it. But okay, that date they were clean.
14 Their blood was fine. But they were little. They
15 weren't digging as much then. My grandson was in
16 preschool when we planted the garden. What happened
17 those years when my level was 748, which is way above
18 650, way above the 500 it started out at? What did
19 that contamination in the time they were affected
20 until they were done digging? Do I have to have them
21 tested again?

22 MS. QUINN:

23 If you're truly concerned, I would say if
24 they were my children and I was concerned, I would go
25 get them tested again for peace of mind just so you

1 know that they're okay. I mean, that ---.

2 RESIDENT:

3 I want to know why nothing was said to me
4 that my soil was contaminated, that nothing was done.
5 I watched homes being dug up and replanted. Well, why
6 wasn't mine done?

7 MR. GOTTHOLD:

8 Those go on with a number.

9 RESIDENT:

10 Oh, so I'm still on the list?

11 MR. GOTTHOLD:

12 Yes.

13 RESIDENT:

14 Oh, okay.

15 MR. GOTTHOLD:

16 Yes, ma'am.

17 RESIDENT:

18 I have a copy of the soil sample that I
19 had taken in 2001. The one was 880 milligrams. The
20 other one was 1,026 milligrams. The other one was
21 1,171 milligrams. Now, this was in 2001. We got a
22 letter saying that our yard would be cleaned up in the
23 spring of 2003. It's going on 2008. Nothing has ever
24 been done. Now, there was a neighbor that had their
25 yards cleaned up and we were right in the center on

1 each side of us. Did the lead jump over our yard that
2 they missed us? I mean, it's ridiculous. We're still
3 waiting. That's all I have to say.

4 MR. GOTTHOLD:

5 Thank you. Yes, ma'am? Would you like
6 the microphone?

7 RESIDENT:

8 I'll talk nice and loud. This is the
9 concern here, is when you have levels like this and
10 when you know the levels are like this in certain
11 areas and when you know there's children involved, I
12 still do not understand why it is taking so long to
13 address these issues. Those kids have to continue to
14 grow and be in that environment where they still run a
15 very high risk of being contaminated.

16 My whole point is that you knew five
17 years ago that this was a situation. Why wasn't this
18 addressed at a more rapid pace then because you know
19 that children are going to be children? Just --- and
20 not only that, I wanted to address the issue in terms
21 of the testing. Yes, ma'am, whoever you are, you need
22 to have them tested again. It's just like anything
23 else. Not always will tests be accurate when it's
24 tested --- or when it's taken. So I suggest that
25 anyone who has had their children tested have those

1 tests retested as fast as possible.

2 These are issues the people think that
3 --- the question now is why weren't they assessed.
4 Was it because there was not enough money? Was it
5 because they did not have the staff? Why is it ---
6 and why am I looking at this sheet that is now saying
7 clean up our plant. And this says October 11th. And
8 it says that cleanup will begin spring of 2008. If we
9 know that these are situations at this level, at this
10 point, and five years prior to, why are we --- what
11 are we waiting for? What are we actually waiting for?

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 That is an excellent question. Our
14 needing to begin in spring has to do with the
15 restoration of the properties. We don't do the
16 remediation in the non-growing months because then you
17 got a mud ball. The issue about why we need to start
18 in the spring is related to making sure that the yards
19 won't be washed away by the winter storms.

20 I wholeheartedly agree that this has
21 taken too long.

22 RESIDENT:

23 It's absolutely unacceptable.

24 MR. GOTTHOLD:

25 It is. We are moving forward, ma'am.

1 Yes, ma'am?

2 RESIDENT:

3 I'd like to know why did you stop? I
4 mean, you started cleaning up the yards and then you
5 stopped. Why did you stop? These people still have a
6 lot of lead in their property. Why did you stop?

7 MR. GOTTHOLD:

8 I think as we explained back then what we
9 wanted to do was go out and do the rest of the
10 sampling.

11 RESIDENT:

12 And it's taken you seven years?

13 MR. GOTTHOLD:

14 The sampling was delayed a year for ---
15 for technical reasons. But the rest of that time was
16 spent analyzing data. There was a need to understand.
17 I think some of the initial results coming back from
18 the risk assessment, the numbers were very high. And
19 we didn't necessarily think that those were the right
20 numbers. We went back and redid all the calculations,
21 and that's how we --- so we were cautious I guess in
22 terms to make sure we had the right number at that
23 time.

24 RESIDENT:

25 It was cautious for you, but what about

1 the rest of us? These people have high levels.

2 MR. GOTTHOLD:

3 Well, I mean, remember, even before ---
4 the target number was a number that we set --- that's
5 something that we set. And that's what we did.
6 Because of that confidence that there wasn't a problem
7 right now we thought that ---.

8 RESIDENT:

9 You thought it would go away?

10 MR. GOTTHOLD:

11 No, no, no, no. We knew that it was ---
12 there was some time available for us to make all the
13 calculations, do all the assessments. We knew we had
14 low blood levels and moderate soil levels. Now,
15 everybody who had information from that soil sampling
16 that was submitted to them. So everybody knew ---.

17 RESIDENT:

18 The woman here didn't sound like she
19 knew.

20 MR. GOTTHOLD:

21 Well, everybody knew when we provided
22 that number and information for that. One of the
23 things that we've been relying on is that when people
24 give information we have control of what's going on
25 with their properties. What we also provided was the

1 information packet for these people that ask questions
2 once we get it. It is not --- this is not a
3 complicated process. If you get your hands dirty and
4 put in your mouth, that's how the lead gets in there.
5 It's not going to jump in there. It's not going to be
6 --- it's not --- it's not a complicated process. It's
7 very simple.

8 And we depended on it. What are we
9 depending on? The individuals who have been found to
10 have lead in their soil that they would follow the
11 procedure and follow the simple guidelines of washing
12 their hands and making sure they weren't getting
13 involved in the paint.

14 RESIDENT:

15 It's your job ---.

16 MR. GOTTHOLD:

17 And I think --- and I think --- we
18 haven't gotten any reports since and they've gotten no
19 reports, zero, of any problems with the blood lead.
20 So yes, I agree it took too long, but I disagree that
21 there was a health situation. Yes, sir?

22 RESIDENT:

23 Thank you. My name is Jerry Reed. I
24 have a very much standard question. You say you
25 tested the soil in 2001 and all these years later you

1 have a dialogue with the city about evaluating the
2 risk and developing a cleanup proposal for the park.
3 I don't know why that's taking all these years, but
4 I'm under the impression and please correct me if I'm
5 wrong that Exide did, in fact, enter into an agreement
6 years ago to clean up Bernhart that did establish
7 levels and did have a deadline and starting gate and
8 so forth. And that just absolutely never happened.
9 I'm wondering why.

10 MR. GOTTHOLD:

11 Exide is obligated to the care of
12 Bernhart Park. They did make a proposal to the city
13 regarding the methods that were going to be used. The
14 city had somebody take a look at it. The city had
15 some problems with it, and there was never a time
16 money was spent. So that part is not right. So
17 that's a similar type of responsibility. In talking
18 to the city residents, they're very anxious to get the
19 park opened up. In fact --- well --- and we talked to
20 the city about this last night, and we hope to get
21 some kind of a schedule with cleanup numbers for
22 Bernhart Park. We're going to do the same as
23 residential --- same thing as a residential number.
24 And we're going to try to go work on getting landscape
25 and get that work as well.

1 So that is still Exide's obligation, and
2 they're going to fulfill that obligation.

3 RESIDENT:

4 I think my point is I think it was
5 reported in the papers that that cleanup never
6 happened because Exide went into bankruptcy.

7 MR. GOTTHOLD:

8 It could ---.

9 RESIDENT:

10 My question is you're saying here ---
11 you're telling us that you have ways of making them
12 comply, but in this particular instance they just
13 found a loophole by filing bankruptcy. And I'm asking
14 what's any different this time with the residential
15 property. If they go bankruptcy, is that good cause
16 for them? What can you do if they file bankruptcy?

17 MR. GOTTHOLD:

18 I don't think that bankruptcy would hold
19 the cleanup up.

20 RESIDENT:

21 I'm sorry?

22 MR. GOTTHOLD:

23 Is your question what would bankruptcy do
24 to this if it happened again, if they went through
25 bankruptcy again? That we would need to make a

1 decision whether we continue to pursue this. We may
2 try to take it over and do it ourselves.

3 RESIDENT:

4 You're saying that you would take this
5 over and ---.

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 Correct. Yes. We might have problems in
8 that area. Again, we're expecting ---.

9 RESIDENT:

10 Because, as you all know, they could
11 voluntarily enter into bankruptcy multiple times.

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 I'm sorry.

14 RESIDENT:

15 I have a few questions. In reference to
16 the documents in question, if anyone wants to, they
17 can go up to the DEP office locally, go through their
18 files and they would be horrified at the information
19 they found out about the company. They knew --- you
20 folks knew since 1970 that this area had this lead and
21 had not done anything about this. Since back then
22 children have had high lead levels. People have been
23 complaining about the odors in the community.

24 My second question is are these local
25 municipalities getting a post fee for each truck load

1 of hazardous waste that's coming into the plant.
2 Somebody was talking about politics. I think politics
3 enters into post fee.

4 And the other thing is I think you need
5 to start forgetting about the history of the company
6 years ago and that cause and solution then. There is
7 no reason to quit no matter where, that is 100 percent
8 efficient. And anything that goes into that lead
9 smelter comes out of the smoke stack. And with these
10 people's excursions that exceed the limit, that means
11 what's going in there is coming out and that is lead.
12 As long as we live here and that company is here, we
13 will be continuously exposed to lead, cadmium and
14 arsenic and any other heavy metals that are coming out
15 of that smoke stack.

16 MR. GOTTHOLD:

17 Like I said, we have information that the
18 lead issue is not available. Yes, sir?

19 RESIDENT:

20 Yeah. It was four years ago at our last
21 meeting. A lot of questions about the air came up
22 that day, too. And we had answers and we were here
23 talking about the air. I'm just wondering when are we
24 going to talk about the air. When are you guys going
25 to bring the state, whoever? That's been a while that

1 we talked about lead in there. Obviously, there's
2 enough concern here amongst people like myself,
3 because I live here. I don't think there's enough
4 concern coming from the state. You say there's
5 concern. You say it's obligated. Where's the data
6 showing what you've been monitoring in the air? These
7 are our arsenic levels that we're breathing in every
8 day. Nobody's monitoring. Nobody shows any --- we're
9 asking for information and you're not giving it to us.
10 You know, I understand you guys are lead, but when is
11 the air coming? How long is it going to take to get
12 air here?

13 And my other final question is, you know,
14 this big concern over the properties is going to be
15 listed as properties with a six-year-old. What about
16 the six-year-old back then, four, five, six, seven
17 years ago? And you guys took a long time. Well,
18 hopefully through our sufferings and our keeping our
19 children in, not allowing them to dig around in the
20 yard, hopefully you guys are going to learn something.
21 And if this happens again, someone else --- those
22 people won't have to go through that.

23 MR. GOTTHOLD:

24 Thank you.

25 RESIDENT:

1 I just have a question, please.

2 MR. GOTTHOLD:

3 Can I take this gentleman here?

4 RESIDENT:

5 Sure.

6 RESIDENT:

7 I would like to just follow up a little
8 bit on Bernhart Park. According to your sheet here,
9 in 2001 Exide and the EPA completed a comprehensive
10 investigation of Bernhart Park. Now, we're in 2008.
11 I'm a little older than you are. When I was a young
12 boy, I spent the better part of my summers at Bernhart
13 Park until I turned 17 and went in the Navy.

14 When I came out of the Navy, got married,
15 I raised four children, put them through school here
16 in Muhlenberg Township. We spent a lot of good days
17 at the Bernhart Park. And it has taken eight years to
18 straighten Bernhart Park up. How long is it going to
19 take until you do something about it? You can't even
20 walk in there. If you walk in there, they want to
21 chase you out. Yet I can take a stone and throw it up
22 over the hill and they're building homes down there
23 that they're going to live in. So when are you going
24 to do anything about Bernhart Park?

25 Now, you're going to have the City of

1 Reading to determine appropriate cleanup levels. You
2 guys should have the appropriate cleanup levels.

3 What's the name of your department? United States
4 Environmental Protection Agency. Protect the people,
5 protect our environment. Whatever it takes, do it.

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 Yes, ma'am?

8 RESIDENT:

9 I just want to go back to a point that
10 you had made. And you said that the responsibility
11 --- kind of shifted responsibility by saying it would
12 be the responsibility of the parents to watch their
13 children. You said that you thought that they could
14 live up to that responsibility. Well, my question
15 then is to you, is it your responsibility then to
16 notify all of those who live in that area that did not
17 have an understanding that this was going on? Is it
18 then your responsibility to notify them when they move
19 into the area?

20 MR. GOTTHOLD:

21 I'm not sure I ---.

22 RESIDENT:

23 I'll repeat myself. I said that you said
24 it was the responsibility for the parents to watch
25 their children knowing that the environment is the way

1 it was, the occurrence of the lead. But my
2 question ---.

3 MR. GOTTHOLD:

4 Well, I didn't say --- I wasn't trying to
5 pass on some of the responsibility. We were
6 depending ---.

7 RESIDENT:

8 You were depending ---.

9 MR. GOTTHOLD:

10 We're depending on parenting of parents.

11 RESIDENT:

12 You know, that's what I'm saying. It's
13 the responsibility of the parents, and you were
14 depending on them to live up to their responsibility.
15 My question then is, are you living up to your
16 responsibility? Are you notifying people who just
17 moved into the area that this is a situation, that
18 they have to be concerned about? Are all the families
19 being notified so that they then can be responsible
20 parents?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

22 In terms of people moving in and buying
23 the house, they should go over their sales agreement
24 when you purchase a house. And it's up to the
25 property owner and the real estate agent to show this

1 information. And if they don't show that, that's a
2 violation of their agreement.

3 RESIDENT:

4 But what I'm saying ---

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

6 And these people should know.

7 RESIDENT:

8 --- is this a responsibility for EPA to
9 do the informing of people coming in because right now
10 you say responsibility of keeping your children safe,
11 we can understand that, or keeping them away from the
12 lead, that's the parent's responsibility. And now,
13 you're saying that it's the responsibility of the
14 owner of the house as well as the real estate person
15 to notify people. My question still goes back to you.
16 What is EPA's responsibility? Do you not have the ---
17 in other words, right now they're not cleaning it up.
18 Right now it's still an issue. Right now it's still a
19 problem. What I'm saying is what is your
20 responsibility then? Is it your responsibility to let
21 people know who are just moving into the community
22 that these are vital problems here? I mean, is
23 there's no responsibility you take to at least notify
24 people?

25 MR. GOTTHOLD:

1 One thing, again, we are telling people.

2 RESIDENT:

3 I said people who have just moved into
4 the area. These are people who have lived here and
5 now have a problem that are coming to you saying
6 what's going on. I'm talking about people who just
7 moved into the area. Do you take any responsibility
8 whatsoever to notify them of anything that has to be
9 done? Because when people are purchasing a house and
10 they come into this area they're not expecting that
11 they're going to have these types of problems. Is
12 there anything that can be done?

13 MR. GOTTHOLD:

14 That's a difficult question. You're
15 absolutely right. And it's a difficult question. And
16 you know, to the extent that people were concerned and
17 called us and we have information that's provided but
18 they need to contact us. The problem is that there is
19 a --- we are obligated under federal law to protect
20 people with problems with their property. You know,
21 we have not found a good way to sort of publicly ---
22 you're buying a house and we give you information and
23 it's not your house. Okay. We don't give out ---
24 people who right now are getting their results today,
25 we wouldn't say the results. We cannot give your

1 results to this gentleman.

2 RESIDENT:

3 No, I'm not saying that. If you
4 periodically have information that goes out that says
5 that these are the problems in this area. Can't you
6 periodically at least warn people? Do you know what
7 the bottom line is in all the problems you have here?
8 The bottom line is that people are being sensitive.
9 We are talking about human beings. We have a country
10 that's supposed to be high tech in communication, and
11 it seems like it's a big gap here in communication.
12 And that's all I'm saying. Don't we owe it to people
13 to let them know what the problems are here? Isn't
14 your agency --- you're saying it is a protective
15 agency, but can't your agency at least take the
16 responsibility to let people know? It may be just as
17 simple as, you know, sending out periodically in the
18 mail what's going on.

19 I mean, this is a --- this is a very
20 small turnout here tonight. When you look at the full
21 scheme of things and how many people live in this
22 area, for whatever reason, isn't there something more
23 that you can do to let people know what the
24 circumstances are?

25 MR. GOTTHOLD:

1 Well, I mean, we're avoiding discussing
2 specific properties, so I'm not sure if I can get to
3 that answer. We've had the website up for the whole
4 time. So all of that information, all of that contact
5 information has been available on the website. So I
6 think, you know, there are suggestions that folks here
7 think is a better way to kind of get information
8 across. You probably hear about it and we'll do our
9 best to add communication centers.

10 RESIDENT:

11 I have a question about consequence.
12 When are consequences going to start taking place?
13 I'm hearing here tonight people that have lawns and
14 how many years they haven't been taken care of. You
15 pay the consequences, you need to take care of that
16 and turn around and time is money. When's the
17 consequence --- when's EPA going to step in and start
18 doing their job? That's what we want to know. We're
19 sick and tired of being told what you want to do. We
20 want to see some action. We want to see some of this
21 being taken care of.

22 I mean, when is the timeline for this to
23 get taken care of? I mean, is it 20 years?

24 MR. GOTTHOLD:

25 We had some people that were reluctant to

1 letting sampling go on on their property. We're
2 approaching --- we're going to be out in the area
3 within the next couple of weeks.

4 RESIDENT:

5 So if that doesn't --- that takes you
6 clear to --- the way that is set up, the consequences
7 are the EPA is going to step in in a year's time to
8 take care of these people's homes. What about when
9 the consequences start? That's my question. I don't
10 want to hear about testing. That's great. We're
11 going to test it. And then we're going to sit back
12 for another five years like these people have here and
13 nothing's going to get done. Okay. And then it just
14 --- we're just going to wait and nothing gets done.
15 The EPA needs to step in and start doing something.

16 MR. GOTTHOLD:

17 I agree. I agree with you 100 percent.
18 The first conduction is as soon as the weather breaks
19 this spring. That's when we'll start.

20 RESIDENT:

21 I didn't get the answer. I got to run.
22 I want to know the timeline of how long it's going to
23 take these people. If these people have lawns that
24 aren't done, do you think this is going to get done
25 within a year's time?

1 MR. GOTTHOLD:

2 Oh, no.

3 RESIDENT:

4 When are you going to know that you're
5 coming to do my lawn because my lead content is too
6 high? How do you know that? Is it going to be a
7 year? I mean, I know it doesn't take long. When they
8 started doing these lawns around here, it didn't take
9 long for them to dig the lawn out and plant some grass
10 and take care of it. So why are some getting done and
11 not all of them?

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 Everybody that is in that neighborhood is
14 going to be taken care of.

15 RESIDENT:

16 And if my home is in a timeline, why is
17 the EPA turning around and saying, you know what,
18 we're going to get our own people in there, our
19 private people, and take care of these people's lawns
20 in this time frame? And if you don't take care of it,
21 we're going to charge you for it. And it's taken of
22 then. It needs to be taken care of.

23 RESIDENT:

24 Let me ask this, why does the --- some of
25 the cleanup level vary by almost 500 parts per million

1 on these various cleanup sites? I mean, you got one
2 here and the soil cleanup level is 500, but here in
3 Muhlenberg we're about 650. Why is that?

4 MS. QUINN:

5 I'll try to shed some light on that. The
6 reason is is because we measure --- there are certain
7 factors or information that we put into this model
8 that are measured in the community that we're
9 examining. For example, in this community we measured
10 --- we measured the tap water concentrations of lead.
11 There are other things, something called
12 bioavailability, how well you absorb lead that you
13 ingest.

14 Again we haven't done that in this
15 community, but that was measured in other communities.
16 So there are various factors that go into this model,
17 and they can differ among different areas. For
18 example, lead sites out west or sites that are
19 composed --- or compromised primarily of mining
20 elements, that tends to be bioavailable. So that in a
21 nutshell is why these levels can vary.

22 MR. GOTTHOLD:

23 Yes, ma'am?

24 RESIDENT:

25 I have to come up here because I can't

1 yell. My name's Donna Lucker (phonetic) and I'm a
2 resident of Laureldale. I have been banging my head
3 against the wall for years now trying to get Exide to
4 live with their permits, abide by the permits and the
5 codes of this state. I have been working with Exide
6 and the DEP, and nothing really happens much.

7 A lot of things that I'd like to bring up
8 tonight have already been addressed. First of all, I
9 would like to say that people that have any problems
10 with Exide with the air, call the local DEP. During
11 the working hours, they will answer the phone. After
12 the working hours, still leave a message on the
13 answering machine because that counts. What's
14 happening is there are not enough people that call DEP
15 and complain. And DEP turns around and says well,
16 it's just a nuisance. We don't have a problem out
17 there because not many people are complaining. They
18 have to stick together and do something about it.

19 It's not just the lead. We've got air
20 quality, water, waste water, hazardous waste. How
21 many of these permits are out of date and have
22 expired? All of them because they can't meet the
23 standards. The air quality gets back to the --- I
24 have tried with Exide to talk to them. And some of
25 the answers that we get you cannot believe, from it's

1 not us, it's someone else. I have sat at a meeting
2 with a DEP representative there, and I asked the
3 environmental manager will you come to my home when it
4 is so bad there that we can't even stand to be in our
5 house, we have to leave our home, and experience what
6 we're talking about. He sat there and said absolutely
7 not. Now, why not?

8 A lot of these things have already been
9 addressed. Oh. 24/7 coverage. I've been trying a
10 long time to get 24/7 coverage. And finally last year
11 I got through to the higher level in the DEP, and
12 finally got 24/7 coverage. We had several people in
13 the area and it worked very well. We had a couple of
14 good violations out of that. Someone put aside what
15 should not have been put aside because they don't want
16 to pick on Exide.

17 They've kept this for a short time and
18 they discontinued it. And now, we're trying to get it
19 back again so the people have somebody to talk to that
20 isn't in-house or doesn't want to do a damn thing for
21 us. They don't have the money when we push it. They
22 say we don't have the taxpayer's money to put out.
23 Who are we? We're taxpayers. I want to stand up for
24 our local DEP office because the air quality
25 specialist, our water specialist here, they do respond

1 as best they can. They're not on 24 hours a day, but
2 I know that they would like to have that put on. They
3 will respond and they will help us.

4 We changed --- they have changed some of
5 their rulings along the way because of persistence.
6 Before you couldn't complain because you were not on
7 your own property. They changed that. Now you can.
8 You had to have two people complain for it to account
9 for a violation. Now, it's only one. At least some
10 of these changes took place, but not enough.

11 And I think the bottom line really is
12 that as far as Exide is concerned, they are the
13 experts there. They know what the properties are even
14 if they don't want to admit it to us. It's their
15 responsibility to live up to that permit, abide by the
16 Pennsylvania codes and federal laws and do what's
17 right for our community and let us live a good life.
18 We can go outside and sit in our yard and everything
19 else and have our children grow up to be healthy
20 adults.

21 And I'd like to see also let them go
22 around and check the amount of people in our area that
23 have respiratory problems. It's not just a stink. It
24 actually is an irritant when your eyes water and your
25 mouth burns, when you go into bronchospasm. This is

1 not an isolated incident. And these poor people who
2 are still here who live up there in the Saylor
3 Estates. They are in daily wind. That means most of
4 the time that that wind is blowing it goes to them, so
5 they're getting beaten with this thing.

6 We get it in our area when the wind
7 changes. We got this it always smells. And when you
8 have such a bad odor and such an irritant you cannot
9 tell me it is not from them. So I feel that Exide
10 should be made to abide by their permits or close
11 their doors. They owe it to the community. They want
12 to say, oh, we're good neighbors. They're not good
13 neighbors. And if you heard some of the things that I
14 have been told, it would make the hair you have left
15 up top stand up. I'm sorry to say that, but it's the
16 truth.

17 And they lie. I have been lied to
18 straight out. I go to them and say, oh, well, I have
19 this problem here. I noticed an emission that
20 shouldn't be here. It's a white thing. And it's not
21 coming from the stack. It's coming from someplace
22 else. And I take pictures. And you said, well, I
23 found this problem. And they look at you and say, I
24 don't know what you're talking about. Same with the
25 waste water and the water always flowing down the

1 road, I don't know what you're talking about. You
2 show them a picture, and they say oh.

3 So there are big, big problems down here
4 even more than the air, folks, believe me. And you do
5 have some people who have --- everybody's got to get
6 together, too. And I have had a meeting with the DEP
7 and the people that are responsible for upholding
8 these laws and holding them to task for what their
9 responsibilities are.

10 MR. GOTTHOLD:

11 Thank you. Thank you so much. Yes, sir?

12 RESIDENT:

13 No one else has had a chance to speak
14 about the nature of ---.

15 MR. GOTTHOLD:

16 Are we still hearing?

17 RESIDENT:

18 I was not aware that we could get blood
19 tests. Apparently, by testing our blood we could tell
20 how much that we could absorb in our lifetime. So I'm
21 assuming that --- and I'd like to say that we don't
22 dispose naturally the lead that we absorb. It remains
23 with us. And if that's the case, then how will you
24 expect the measurement that you make from our blood to
25 continuously increase unless we can isolate all

1 sources of potential uptake of lead that we could
2 absorb? We would continuously increase the level that
3 you can measure in our blood if that's the case. Is
4 that true?

5 MS. QUINN:

6 No, no. The first part of your question
7 I think was what led to the indicator of lifetime
8 exposure to lead and that's not accurate. What it is
9 is it's a measure of what is being absorbed currently.
10 So what happens is you ingest it. It's absorbed by
11 the blood stream. It eventually finds its way into
12 your bones and your teeth. Our way of measuring lead
13 when it's involving the teeth it's not easy, though.
14 It's not convenient. So you really only have one
15 level. If your exposure is increasing currently ---.

16 RESIDENT:

17 So the results of a blood test are not an
18 indication that we have never been exposed to too much
19 lead or we might potentially have had some slightly
20 mental deterioration as a result of having been
21 exposed. This means that momentarily we're not being
22 subjected to it. That is your criteria for
23 determining whether or not you need to move quickly or
24 not.

25 MS. QUINN:

1 Well, the thing is the --- and you're
2 right, but what we do we gather and we look at the
3 lead. Children are expected to have the highest
4 possible blood lead sometimes when they play ---
5 playing outside they have the greatest exposure. So
6 that's how we try to counteract that. Unfortunately,
7 there was exposure 20 years ago.

8 RESIDENT:

9 Twenty (20) years ago?

10 MS. QUINN:

11 Yes, because --- and I think this is an
12 important thing. So what we did is we tried to buy
13 into the sampling and got the worst possible result.

14 RESIDENT:

15 I feel we shouldn't be ---.

16 MS. QUINN:

17 I would. I mean ---.

18 RESIDENT:

19 The tests had taken place a year or two
20 ago.

21 MS. QUINN:

22 Well, you should. You're determined to
23 get the testing. When we had 500 what we first ---
24 what we know was a substantial lead concentration.
25 The problem is that what we got is a moderate --- a

1 more moderate level. And because we didn't see any
2 high levels of lead in the community after we
3 measured, then we step back and do a rational glance
4 at the evaluation of the community itself and see what
5 the long-term cleanup goal would be that would be
6 safe.

7 RESIDENT:

8 I heard you mention that the lead in the
9 soil is not potentially absorbed into our bodies, and
10 maybe even greater I'm guessing and soil changes to
11 pink on the surface that we might be living in, for
12 example. Is it to be expected that even if the lead
13 is cleaned up there will be no action taken with
14 regard to the deposit of lead that's poisoning our
15 homes, that it's not going to make much of a
16 difference to us because of all the other sources?

17 MS. QUINN:

18 We believe it won't make a difference,
19 but of course, we can --- Exide's not responsible for
20 lead paint in people's home. And that's something
21 that is just a public health consideration. If you
22 live in an older home --- I live in an older home.
23 You know, I would want to be informed whether I had
24 lead paint.

25 RESIDENT:

1 But before we go to Exide and ask them to
2 remove the soil out of our yard and replace it with
3 some clean soil on the very surface, we should take
4 action ourselves to get rid of all the lead paint in
5 our homes?

6 MS. QUINN:

7 I do not necessarily mean that. But if I
8 was concerned, I would go get my blood lead checked
9 first of all. Because if there's an ongoing
10 continuing exposure, it will show up in your blood
11 lead. Even if it's from ---. It takes about a month.
12 I mean, after about --- if you have a limited
13 exposure, within about a month the blood lead starts
14 to drop.

15 RESIDENT:

16 Okay. So if you're not exposed, then the
17 level is going down. So really I know as a result of
18 having been tested this would not have happened within
19 the last month.

20 MS. QUINN:

21 That's probably an accurate statement.

22 RESIDENT:

23 Not comforting?

24 MS. QUINN:

25 No.

1 RESIDENT:

2 Thank you.

3 MR. GOTTHOLD:

4 Anyone else? Sure.

5 RESIDENT:

6 The only thing I want to say is that you
7 must confer not just with the EPA and the DEP, but our
8 county commissioners. If you had noticed all this
9 stuff that is going on now and in the newspapers,
10 there is something pushing this because we have been
11 complaining for years and years. The people who
12 incidentally are responsible for getting this
13 remediation done, we all owe them a thanks. The thing
14 now is whether officials are acting to the complaints
15 of what people are saying. Mark Scott, our county
16 commissioner, is enforcing timeliness. And we have
17 people from Muhlenberg --- I don't remember their
18 names. These people are pushing for us to get these
19 things done, and now all of a sudden Exide is
20 responding to some of these things because their
21 permits are out of date.

22 All of this, all these, all of a sudden,
23 Exide is doing it at their facility. They're doing it
24 as a change and upgrading and all of that. And it's
25 only since this pressure has it gone. And the people

1 have to stand together. But with the pressure of our
2 elected officials that has suddenly made it happen.
3 DEP and EPA have a job to do, and we really expect
4 that to be done right. Thank you.

5 RESIDENT:

6 I understand how these guys got to 650
7 parts of lead and lower is going to be okay. But I
8 also understand that a children's play area or an area
9 that's considered a children's play area, I guess,
10 playground or whatever, the standard for that is about
11 450 or am I a little low on that number?

12 MR. GOTTHOLD:

13 Yeah. There are some published numbers
14 that --- and I think the number you're referring to is
15 Housing and Urban Development has a number. We have
16 different numbers. It's a safety thing. But what
17 they say is the children's play area is 400, then the
18 rest of the yard can be 1,200. That's their standard.
19 So basically they trade off the play areas for the
20 rest of the yard and say that is 1,000, that's okay.
21 And say that's what HUD says. They redo the model
22 that we use.

23 RESIDENT:

24 But if the children's play area is above
25 400, then that's considered a danger?

1 MR. GOTTHOLD:

2 That's just a standard that Housing and
3 Urban Development would use.

4 RESIDENT:

5 Oh, okay. So that's not a state standard
6 or ---?

7 MR. GOTTHOLD:

8 No. We're saying our standard is
9 everywhere, play area, non-play area also.

10 RESIDENT:

11 So then I was mistaken on like a
12 playground, if it was over 450, it would be cleaned
13 up? Is that what you're telling me? I was wrong in
14 assuming that? We have playgrounds throughout the
15 community. If they test over 450, they would
16 automatically be cleaned up? Am I wrong in thinking
17 that?

18 MR. GOTTHOLD:

19 I wouldn't say it's wrong. The screening
20 machine --- in other words, where we look, we screen
21 at 400. Okay. That was what our testing was trying
22 to outline.

23 RESIDENT:

24 So I guess my question is ---.

25 MR. GOTTHOLD:

1 The cleanup model that we laid out
2 tonight is safe for children, small children and with
3 playgrounds.

4 RESIDENT:

5 Because of the testing?

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 Right.

8 RESIDENT:

9 So even playgrounds then will not be
10 cleaned up at a lower rate?

11 MR. GOTTHOLD:

12 Lower than 650?

13 RESIDENT:

14 Yes.

15 MR. GOTTHOLD:

16 No.

17 RESIDENT:

18 Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. GOTTHOLD:

20 I guess --- oh.

21 RESIDENT:

22 Just a quick comment. My name is John
23 Fye (phonetic). I live close by here. We moved here
24 in 1996. We bought a property. At that point, we
25 knew nothing about lead. So I'm just trying to

1 somehow see the warning about potential lead problems.
2 And I'm sure that somehow we may get that information.

3 We had a daughter in 1999. A little bit
4 prior to that the park was closed and that's how we
5 were informed of the lead issue. And then after that,
6 fortunately we knew about the lead problem and finally
7 we were able to get our daughter tested maybe three,
8 four times a year just to make sure each year, you
9 know, especially during the summer months. And by the
10 way, she progressed okay and hasn't had any elevated
11 levels or severely elevated levels, but you never know
12 over the course of time.

13 So I just want to make those statements.
14 And it is a little hard because it's been a long time,
15 since 1996. And I just can't wait any longer, and
16 it's scary.

17 MR. GOTTHOLD:

18 Thank you for your comments. Yes, ma'am?

19 RESIDENT:

20 Just a quick question. What do you do
21 with the soil that you take away?

22 MR. GOTTHOLD:

23 It goes to the landfill and the landfill
24 use it as top cover. They use it to cover trash.

25 RESIDENT:

1 One thing that they said was true, if
2 they burn it hotter, it would be less pollutants. Why
3 don't you guys mandate that they have to burn hotter
4 instead of more or less cold that they are burning it.
5 Because he's right, if they have to burn hotter ---
6 what do they got 20 to 25 percent of our problem
7 there.

8 MR. GOTTHOLD:

9 Yeah, I certainly ---.

10 RESIDENT:

11 And the other ---. And it's the
12 Department of State because I watched them take that
13 soil and put it on piles there. It's only a matter of
14 100 feet away from these people's houses, but because
15 they put it on a pile that makes their area safe now.

16 RESIDENT:

17 The lead's on the pile now.

18 RESIDENT:

19 Right.

20 MR. GOTTHOLD:

21 Well, I mean, it's ---.

22 RESIDENT:

23 And I've watched them take triaxles of
24 dirt out of there. I only live a couple blocks away
25 my whole life. I've lived here 50 years. And we know

1 that there's four feet under some roads. You know,
2 back then they didn't know if that was bad. They
3 didn't know. But he volunteered and said I'll pave
4 your roads. So now we have roads with battery casing
5 underneath them. But everybody who lived here 50 plus
6 years knows that.

7 But do you know in the '80s --- do you
8 know that --- General Battery was the worst culprit.
9 Do you know that they lost 3,000 to 5,000 gallons of
10 acid when a valve ---.

11 MR. GOTTHOLD:

12 Yes.

13 RESIDENT:

14 What was done with that? They filled the
15 hole in.

16 MR. GOTTHOLD:

17 We made them put pumps in the area. They
18 put pumps in the ground right there.

19 RESIDENT:

20 And you said all this was from the '30s
21 and '40s. Well, --.

22 MR. GOTTHOLD:

23 It started then.

24 RESIDENT:

25 Yeah. Western Electric (phonetic) wasn't

1 there then. I don't know if you remember the roof
2 problem they had there when they were re-roofing and
3 all that. So we're probably an inch deep of lead
4 around here. And like I said, people are tired of it.
5 And, you know, they say oh, we didn't do this, but
6 they wanted to be the big shots and wanted to be
7 number one. Exide wanted to be number one, so they
8 bought all these sites. So I think we should make
9 them responsible and have them pump up the temperature
10 and take care of stuff.

11 And you guys don't have a snowball's
12 chance in hell against these guys because they know
13 you only work until four o'clock. Like that lady said
14 back there, come Friday at five o'clock, you can't go
15 across the front of Exide some days. And we see this
16 every --- we see this every day. They just wait for
17 you guys to leave. I mean, they got high powered
18 lawyers against you. These guys sit there at
19 night ---.

20 MR. GOTTHOLD:

21 We're not the ones who go home at 4:00.

22 RESIDENT:

23 You know, if they keep their scrubbers or
24 filters, whatever you want to call them up to date,
25 which they don't --- we all know that. They run their

1 --- they're supposed to run them say a month. They'll
2 run them two to three months. Is it running as
3 efficient? No. And then we all pay for it.

4 So the only way that you're going to
5 catch up with these guys is, like that lady said,
6 24/7. Because like I said, we sit there. We live it.
7 These people like she said she walks her --- I see her
8 all the time, and she walks right in front of it. She
9 knows what's happening just like everybody else that
10 lived there. And, you know, I don't want to be
11 pessimistic, but if you guys don't go twice as hard or
12 200 percent, you're never going to catch them.

13 You know, another thing if we all got
14 blood tests once a week, 3,000 people at \$40, we'd put
15 more a hurting than what they're fining them. Just
16 think about that. We can hit them for 3,000 plus
17 people at \$40 a shot plus for a blood test. That
18 would hurt them more than what EPA charges them for a
19 \$3,000 fine.

20 MR. GOTTHOLD:

21 We have only scheduled --- question?

22 RESIDENT:

23 Quick question. Is it true that the
24 first evidence you have occurred today? So that
25 decision to incinerate contaminated soil from the

1 other side ---?

2 MR. GOTTHOLD:

3 I'm not aware of that. I'll find out.

4 RESIDENT:

5 I think that's true.

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 I know there was some talk about it one
8 time. I remember doing that, but I don't know that
9 that ever happened.

10 RESIDENT:

11 That's actually what they're doing. They
12 haul it in from Hamburg. That's pretty much what's
13 going on up there. That's pretty ironic considering
14 the situation they are facing.

15 MR. GOTTHOLD:

16 Right. I don't ---.

17 RESIDENT:

18 My comment is the legacy of the place
19 there. Before gangs were known, before the history of
20 a place continued. We deserve to get what went on by
21 using the past and I hope that continues. The money
22 invested in the growth of that property obviously
23 shows likewise the protecting efforts of you relative
24 to that should show and hopefully they are. Last, is
25 prevention part of your plan? Yes or no?

1 MR. GOTTHOLD:

2 Sure.

3 RESIDENT:

4 Can we rely on you to help prevent more
5 of the same?

6 MR. GOTTHOLD:

7 You can rely on us to do our jobs and to
8 eliminate you guys' frustrations and concerns.

9 I want to close the hearing. If there's
10 more questions, why don't we --- you can hang around
11 longer and we can be outside of the room here. And
12 I'd like to thank everybody for coming out. You'll be
13 hearing from us a lot over the next couple months.
14 Thank you.

15

16 * * * * *

17 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:30 P.M.

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